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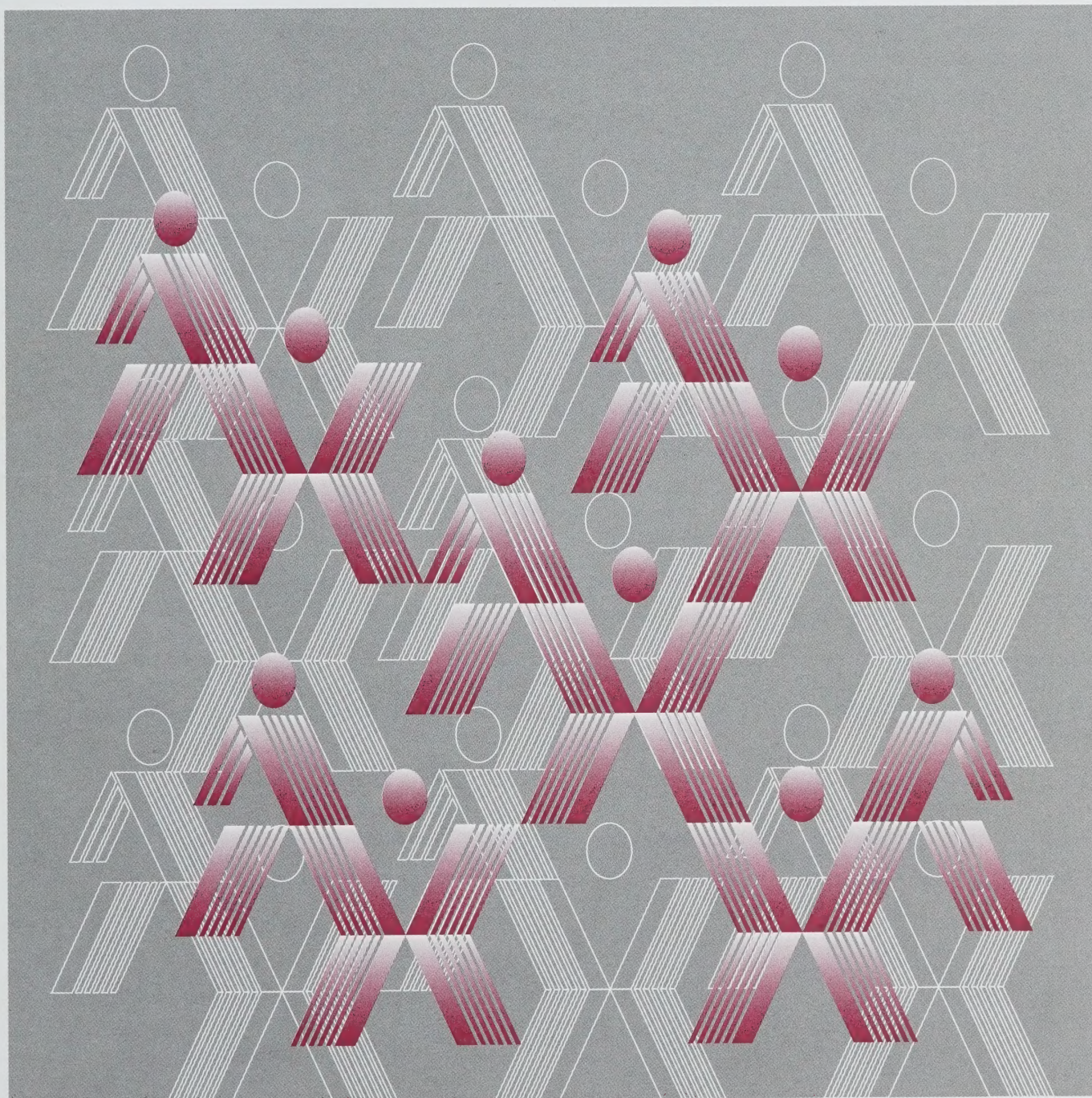
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89-547

A Profile of the Métis

Target groups project



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A Profile of the Métis

Target groups project

Josée Normand

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September 1996

Price: Canada: \$37.00 per issue

United States: US\$45.00 per issue

Other countries: US\$52.00 per issue

Catalogue no. 89-547-XPE

Frequency: Occasional

ISBN 0-660-15599-0

Ottawa

La version française de cette publication est disponible sur demande (n° 89-547-XPF au catalogue).

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing co-operation involving Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

Normand, Josée, 1964-
A Profile of the Métis

Issued also in French under title: Un profil
des Métis.

Issued by: Statistics Canada, Housing, Family
and Social Statistics Division and the Target
Groups Project.

ISBN 0-660-15599-0

CS89-547-XPE

1. Métis -- Statistics. I. Statistics Canada. Housing, Family and
Social Statistics Division. II. Statistics Canada. Target Groups
Project. III. Title: A Profile of the Métis.

E99.M47 N67 1996 971'.00497
C96-988003-0

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The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American
National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for
Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by the Target Groups Project of Statistics Canada under the direction of Colin Lindsay. Nancy Ghalam also contributed major sections and was the senior editor.


Many people took the time to review earlier drafts of this report and their insightful comments were invaluable in its preparation. External reviews were conducted by Father Guy Lavallée, Catherine Littlejohn, Nicole St-Onge, and Doug Sprague. The report was also reviewed internally by Doug Norris, Adele Furrie, Andrew Siggner, and Pierre Gauthier.

Special thanks are owed to Todd Tobin, Arlene Jamieson, Glenn Glover and Colleen Cardillo for their help in retrieving data, and to Cheryl Sarazin, Colette Richard, Alex Solis and Joanne Sage in the preparation and distribution of this report.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Métis account for more than one in five Aboriginal people in Canada, as measured by the 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. In 1991, over 135,000 individuals reported that they identified with the Métis people. Together, they accounted for 22% of the Aboriginal people identified by the survey.
- Three out of four Métis people identified by the 1991 survey lived in the Prairie provinces, 29% in Alberta, 25% in Manitoba and 20% in Saskatchewan. Much smaller shares of the Métis lived in other parts of Canada, ranging from 9% in Ontario to less than 1% in the Yukon Territory.
- Overall, people who identified with the Métis made up less than 1% of Canada's total population in 1991. However, they represented a greater proportion in the Prairie provinces, where they live in large numbers. The Métis people identified by the survey accounted for 3% of the total population of both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and 2% of that of Alberta. They also represented 7% of the population of the Northwest Territories, but less than 1% in all other parts of Canada.
- In 1991, two-thirds (65%) of Métis lived in urban centres. In this respect, the Métis differed considerably from other Aboriginal peoples. In 1991, slightly less than half of North American Indians (48%) and less than one-quarter of Inuit (22%) lived in urban centres. The Métis, however, are less urbanized than the non-Aboriginal population, 85% of whom made their homes in cities.
- Like other Aboriginal peoples, the Métis tend to be younger, on average, than non-Aboriginal people. In 1991, 38% of Métis were children under age 15, compared with 20% of the non-Aboriginal population. In fact, more than half (56%) of the identified Métis population was under age 25 that year. On the other hand, only 3% of Métis, versus 11% of non-Aboriginal people, were aged 65 and over.
- As with the overall population, most Métis are partners in a two-spouse family. However, a relatively large share of Métis are lone parents. In 1991, 11% of Métis aged 15 to 64 headed lone-parent families, as did 10% of North American Indians and 7% of Inuit. In comparison, 4% of non-Aboriginal people were lone parents. In total, almost one in five Métis women aged 15 to 64 was a lone parent (18%), versus just 2% of Métis men.
- Virtually all Métis identified in the survey can speak at least one of Canada's official languages, and a relatively large share are bilingual. However, the ability to speak both French and English was less common in younger groups. In 1991, 26% of Métis aged 65 and over were bilingual, compared with 17% of those in the 45 to 64 age range, 14% of those aged 25 to 44, and 9% of those aged 15 to 24.
- Relatively few Métis are able to carry on a conversation in an Aboriginal language. Of the Métis identified by the survey, 18% reported that they could speak an Aboriginal language. In contrast, the figures were 38% for North American Indians and 75% for Inuit. However, it is important to note that for many Métis, the language of the Métis community is English or French.

- 
- In 1991, 40% of all Métis aged 15 and over reported participating in traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, storytelling, traditional dancing, fiddle playing, jigging, and arts and crafts. As well, 13% had lived on the land away from home in the twelve months prior to the survey.
 - More than one in three (36%) Métis aged 15 to 64 have some training beyond high school. However, the Métis are less likely than the non-Aboriginal population to have a postsecondary education. In 1991, for example, just 6% of Métis aged 15 to 64 held a university degree, compared with 15% of non-Aboriginal people. On the other hand, 16% of Métis, versus 10% of non-Aboriginal people, had no schooling beyond Grade 8.
 - Although many young Métis adults have not yet completed their schooling, they are already less likely than Métis in older age groups to have low levels of educational attainment. In 1991, 9% of Métis aged 15 to 24, compared with 12% of Métis aged 25 to 44 and 40% of those aged 45 to 64, had less than a Grade 9 education.
 - The majority of young Métis are currently attending school. In 1991, 53% of Métis aged 15 to 24 were in school, 49% as full-time students and the remaining 4% on a part-time basis. In comparison, just under half (49%) of North American Indians and 39% of Inuit in this age group were in school. However, young Métis were less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be attending school, 53% versus 62%.
 - Relatively small shares of Métis children have had Aboriginal school teachers. In 1991, 22% of Métis children aged 5 to 14 had an Aboriginal teacher in elementary school. This figure, however, is higher than it had been for adult Métis when they were in elementary school.
 - Slightly more than half of the Métis are employed. In 1991, 52% of Métis aged 15 to 64 had jobs in the labour force. Nonetheless, the Métis were considerably less likely to be employed than the non-Aboriginal population (70%), but more likely to be employed than both the Inuit (44%) and North American Indian peoples (43%).
 - Like other groups in the population, the employment levels of Métis men are higher than those of Métis women. In 1991, 57% of Métis men aged 15 to 64, versus 47% of their female counterparts, had jobs in the labour force.
 - Some Métis support themselves and their families through activities outside the formal labour force. For instance, in 1990, 10% of Métis were involved in unpaid activities such as fishing or hunting for food, cutting wood, or trading for food or other services.
 - Métis men and women tend to do very different types of work in the labour force. In 1991, for example, the most common occupation among Métis men was that of manual worker (45%), while Métis women were more likely to work in service and clerical occupations (50%). Métis women were also twice as likely as men to be employed as professionals, 12% versus 6%.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Métis women are twice as likely to work part time as Métis men. In 1990, 31% of employed Métis women worked at a part-time job, compared with 16% of men. Métis men, however, were more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to work part time, while there was little difference in shares of Métis and non-Aboriginal women employed part time.
- Unemployment rates are considerably higher among the Métis than the non-Aboriginal population. In 1991, 21.8% of the Métis labour force aged 15 to 64 were unemployed, more than twice the rate for non-Aboriginal people (10.0%). However, the unemployment rate of Métis was lower than that of North American Indians (25.1%) and Inuit (25.5%).
- Métis men experience considerably higher rates of unemployment than Métis women. In 1991, 24.9% of the male Métis labour force aged 15 to 64 were unemployed, compared with 18.1% of the female labour force. Young Métis men experience particularly high unemployment rates. One in three (32.7%) Métis men aged 15 to 24 in the labour force was unemployed that year, compared with 23.9% of their female counterparts.
- The Métis have much lower incomes, on average, than the non-Aboriginal population. The average personal income of Métis aged 15 and over from all sources was \$16,200 in 1990, about 50% less than the income of non-Aboriginal people (\$24,200).
- A relatively large share of the Métis population live in a low income situation. In fact, one in three Métis aged 15 and over (33%) lived with incomes which fell below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs in 1990. This was more than twice the figure for the non-Aboriginal population (15%). A large share (41%) of Métis children under age 15 also lived in a low income situation in 1990. Again, this was considerably higher than the rate of low income among non-Aboriginal children (17%).
- The Métis are slightly more likely to rent than to own their homes. In 1991, 52% of all households with at least one person who identified as Métis rented their accommodations, while 48% were homeowners. This contrasted sharply with the non-Aboriginal population, 71% of whom were homeowners.
- About the same share of the homes of Métis and of other Aboriginal peoples were in need of repair. In 1991, 47% of Métis dwellings required repairs, as did 50% of North American Indian dwellings, and 43% of Inuit dwellings. On the other hand, just 32% of the homes of non-Aboriginal people needed repair.
- While only a small percentage of Métis feel that they are in fair or poor health, many report having some kind of health problem. In 1991, 43% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that they had at least one health problem. Health problems tended to be slightly more prevalent among the Métis than among North American Indians (40%), but considerably more so than among the Inuit (33%).
- A relatively large share of Métis aged 15 and over (32%) had disabilities in 1991. This was considerably higher than the incidence of disability among the Canadian population as a whole (18%).



INTRODUCTION

Section 35 (2) of the 1982 *Constitution Act* defines Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples. This report describes the Métis people who indicated Aboriginal ancestry on the 1991 Census and stated that they identified with the Métis people on the 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. General information about the survey and definition of Aboriginal peoples is included in the box "The Aboriginal Peoples Survey."

Thus, this report presents information about the Métis people as measured by the 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. Included are data related to demographic characteristics, family status, language and culture, education, labour force activity, income, housing and health. For purposes of comparison, many indicators are also provided for non-Aboriginal, North American Indian and Inuit peoples.

The Métis people are a historically, legally, politically, linguistically and culturally distinct Aboriginal people. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the term Métis was used to identify people of both Indian and European ancestry who did not regard themselves as being either Indian or White.

For some, however, the term Métis has a more specific historical and geographic connotation. Many consider the Métis people to be linked to the historic Red River Métis of Manitoba. In the nineteenth century, the Red River Settlement was comprised of two distinct Métis groups: the Métis who were the descendants of the French/Indian unions and the Half-Breeds who were the descendants of the English/Indian unions. They were bound by their common Aboriginal ancestry, their western homeland, and the fur trade. The influence of the French, English, and Aboriginal cultures is evident in present-day Métis lifestyles, including Michif languages, dress, music, food, dance, and spirituality. For a thorough contemporary study of the issue of the evolution of the Métis people, please refer to the publications listed in the bibliography.

Given this historical complexity, there is much debate surrounding the definition of the Métis people, and Statistics Canada definitions have met with criticism. As a result, the 1996 Census will include a question asking individuals to self-identify as Métis or other Aboriginal peoples.

It should also be noted that throughout this report, the terms Métis, North American Indian or Inuit peoples refer to the population which self-identified with these groups on the Aboriginal Peoples Survey. Each of these groups may also include respondents who reported multiple Aboriginal identities. For example, those who stated that they identified with both the Métis and North American Indian peoples were included in the population of each group. However, only about one percent of the total Aboriginal Peoples Survey population, about 6,500 individuals, identified with more than one Aboriginal people.

The non-Aboriginal population refers to those respondents who reported on their census questionnaire that they do not have Aboriginal ancestry nor are they Registered Indians according to the *Indian Act*. Those who reported Aboriginal ancestry on the 1991 Census, but did not self-identify with an Aboriginal group on the Aboriginal Peoples Survey are not included in this analysis. (See Figure 1)

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey was conducted by Statistics Canada following the 1991 Census. This new survey was developed in consultation with Aboriginal organizations and government departments. The survey collected information on such issues as employment, education, language, health and mobility from those people who identified as North American Indian, Métis or Inuit peoples, and/or who were Registered Indians according to the *Indian Act*.

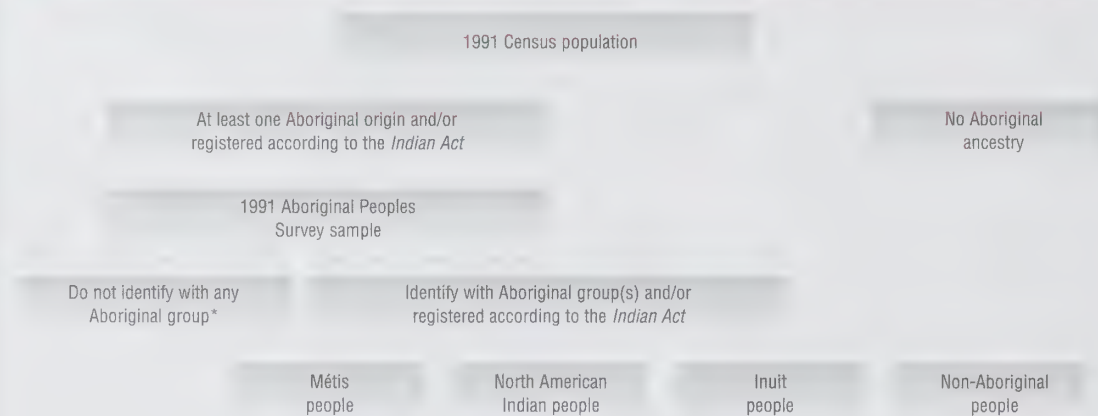
The sample for the Aboriginal Peoples Survey was derived from responses to the 1991 Census question on ethnic origin. Those individuals who reported on their census questionnaire that they had Aboriginal ancestry, and/or who reported being registered according to the *Indian Act* of Canada were contacted for the Aboriginal Peoples Survey. Those who reported that they identified with an Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit or other Aboriginal groups such as "Cree" or "Inuvialuit," and/or those who are registered according to the *Indian Act* were included in the Aboriginal Peoples Survey population.

In other words, the 1991 Census measured Aboriginal ancestry, while the Aboriginal Peoples Survey described individuals who **self-identified** with an Aboriginal group. Those seeking precise information about data comparability and data quality should consult the *User's Guide to 1991 Aboriginal Data*, or contact the Target Groups Project at Statistics Canada.



Figure 1

Population chart



* Not included in this analysis.

THE POPULATION

The Métis account for more than one in five Aboriginal people in Canada, as measured by the 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. In 1991, over 135,000 individuals reported that they identified with the Métis people. Together, they accounted for 22% of the Aboriginal people identified by the survey. At the same time, 74% identified with North American Indian groups, and 6% with the Inuit people.¹ (Table 1.1)

Three out of four Métis people identified by the 1991 survey lived in the Prairie provinces, 29% in Alberta, 25% in Manitoba and 20% in Saskatchewan. Much smaller shares of the Métis lived in other parts of Canada, ranging from 9% in Ontario to less than 1% in the Yukon Territory.

The Métis comprise a large share of the Aboriginal population in the Prairie provinces, a region considered by many Métis as their historic homeland. The Métis accounted for 37% of Aboriginal peoples identified in Alberta, 33% in Manitoba and 31% in Saskatchewan. This figure was also quite high in Newfoundland, where 21% of identified Aboriginal peoples were Métis. In other areas, the percentage of the Aboriginal population made up of people who identified with the Métis ranged from 15% in Quebec to less than 5% in either Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or the Yukon.

Overall, people who identified with the Métis made up less than 1% of Canada's total population in 1991. However, they represented a greater proportion in the Prairie provinces where they live in large numbers. The Métis people identified by the survey accounted for 3% of the total population of both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and 2% of that of Alberta. They also represented 7% of the population of the Northwest Territories, but less than 1% in all other parts of Canada.

Urban/rural distribution

In 1991, two-thirds (65%) of Métis lived in urban centres. In this respect, the Métis differed considerably from other Aboriginal peoples. In 1991, slightly less than half of North American Indians (48%) and less than one-quarter (22%) of Inuit lived in urban centres. The Métis, however, are less urbanized than the non-Aboriginal population, 85% of whom made their homes in cities. (Table 1.2)

The Métis also account for a substantial share of the Aboriginal population living in census metropolitan areas,² especially in the Prairies. For example, 47% of Aboriginal peoples in Saskatoon were Métis, as were 46% in Edmonton and 43% in Winnipeg. The Métis also made up 34% of the Aboriginal population in Regina and 30% in Calgary. In other major census metropolitan areas, the Métis ranged from 25% of the Aboriginal population in Montréal to just 8% in Victoria. (Table 1.3)

In fact, the Métis account for a significant share of the total population of several Prairie census metropolitan areas. In 1991, 3% of those living in Saskatoon, and 2% in each of Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton,

¹ Figures add up to more than 100% because a small number of individuals identified with more than one Aboriginal group.

² Refers to an urban area with a population of 100,000 or more.

identified with the Métis people. In all other census metropolitan areas, the figure was one-half of one percentage point or less. The geographic concentration of Métis in the Prairies is illustrated by the fact that 11% of all identified Métis in Canada lived in Winnipeg, and 10% in Edmonton.

Residence on designated lands

Only 1% of Métis reported that they lived on lands designated for Aboriginal peoples. Indeed, there is no legally recognized land base³ for the Métis in most provinces. However, there are eight Métis settlements in Alberta and several parcels of land in Saskatchewan which have been designated as Métis farms. Part of the Métis population of Rainy River, Ontario was also allocated reserve land and treated as Registered Indians according to the *Indian Act*. In addition, Métis in the Northwest Territories are currently negotiating land claims.⁴ In contrast, 36% of North American Indians lived on Indian reserves or settlements. (Table 1.2)

Age distribution

Like other Aboriginal peoples, the Métis tend to be younger, on average, than non-Aboriginal people. In 1991, 38% of the Métis were children under age 15, compared with 20% of the non-Aboriginal population. In fact, more than half (56%) of the identified Métis population was under age 25 that year. On the other hand, only 3% of Métis, versus 11% of non-Aboriginal people, were aged 65 and over. (Table 1.4)

Contrary to trends in the non-Aboriginal population, females outnumber males among Métis in both the 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 age ranges. On the other hand, women account for slightly less than half of the senior Métis population. In 1991, 48% of Métis aged 65 and over were women, compared with 57% of non-Aboriginal seniors and 54% of North American Indian seniors. The Inuit population aged 65 and over consisted of equal numbers of women and men.

Mobility

The Métis are a relatively mobile population. In 1991, 62% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that they had moved in the past five years, slightly higher than figures for the Inuit (60%) and North American Indians (58%), but well above that for non-Aboriginal people (45%). These figures include all individuals who were not living at the same address in 1991 as they were in 1986. (Table 1.5)

Métis people are also more likely than those in other groups to have changed their province or territory of residence. In 1991, 23% of Métis reported that they had moved from one province or territory to another in the last five years, as had

³ As reported during the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, "a 'Métis Land Base' basically means returning sufficient lands and natural resources to the Métis: lands and resources that will enable our people to survive (as a distinct people) and retain our culture, traditions, customs, livelihood, languages and dignity. A land base is our inalienable, natural right as self-determining Indigenous Peoples," (*Sharing the Harvest: The Road to Self-Reliance*, p.79).

⁴ For more information, please refer to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, *Sharing the Harvest: The Road to Self-Reliance*.

21% of North American Indians. In sharp contrast, just 12% of Inuit and 4% of non-Aboriginal people had changed their province or territory of residence. (Table 1.6)

At most ages, the Métis are more likely than other Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal peoples to have moved. The largest differences were noted among people aged 45 to 64; 51% of Métis in this age range had moved in the previous five years, compared with 47% of Inuit, 43% of North American Indians and 30% of non-Aboriginal people. (Table 1.5)

Adult Métis women in all age groups are much more likely than their male counterparts to have changed their place of residence. This difference was particularly evident among the youngest and oldest segments of the Métis population. For instance, 67% of women, versus 57% of men aged 15 to 24, had moved within the past five years. Similarly, 41% of Métis women aged 65 and over, compared with 30% of senior men, lived at a different address five years earlier.

Table 1.1

Métis population by province/territory, 1991

	Number	As a % of total population in province/territory	As a % of total Aboriginal population in province/territory	As a % of total Métis population in Canada
Newfoundland	2,075	0.4	20.7	1.5
Prince Edward Island	x	x	x	x
Nova Scotia	225	--	2.6	0.2
New Brunswick	100*	--	1.9*	0.1
Quebec	8,690	0.1	15.4	6.4
Ontario	12,055	0.1	10.4	8.9
Manitoba	33,230	3.1	33.4	24.6
Saskatchewan	26,995	2.8	31.1	20.0
Alberta	38,755	1.5	37.4	28.6
British Columbia	9,030	0.3	8.9	6.7
Yukon	190*	0.7*	4.2*	0.1*
Northwest Territories	3,895	6.8	11.3	2.9
Canada	135,265	0.5	21.6	100.0

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 94-325-XPB and 94-327-XPB.

THE POPULATION



Table 1.2

Percentage of people living in rural/urban areas, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
People living:												
On reserve/Aboriginal settlement	1.4	1.5	1.4	33.4	39.0	36.0	x	x	x	0.1	0.1	0.1
Off reserve/Aboriginal settlement												
Rural	32.9	34.4	33.6	16.3	16.6	16.4	75.7	80.0	77.8	14.6	15.8	15.2
Urban	65.8	64.1	64.9	50.3	44.4	47.5	24.0	19.7	21.9	85.4	84.2	84.8
Total	98.6	98.4	98.6	66.6	61.0	64.0	99.6	99.8	99.7	99.9	99.9	99.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	68.4	66.8	135.3	241.2	219.4	460.7	18.2	18.0	36.2	13,133.9	12,843.8	25,977.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.



Table 1.3

Métis population in selected census metropolitan areas, 1991

	Number	As % of CMA population	As a % of total Aboriginal population in CMA	As a % of total Métis population in Canada
Montréal	1,675	0.1	24.7	1.2
Ottawa-Hull	1,425	0.2	20.6	1.1
Toronto	1,430	0.1	10.1	1.1
Winnipeg	14,990	2.3	42.6	11.1
Regina	3,720	2.0	33.8	2.8
Saskatoon	5,585	2.7	46.9	4.1
Calgary	4,285	0.6	30.4	3.2
Edmonton	13,515	1.6	46.2	10.0
Vancouver	4,070	0.3	16.3	3.0
Victoria	345	0.1	7.8	0.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 94-327-XPB.



Table 1.4

Population by age, 1991

	Métis		North American Indian		Inuit		Non-Aboriginal	
	Number 000s	As a % of total population	Number 000s	As a % of total population	Number 000s	As a % of total population	Number 000s	As a % of total population
People aged:								
Under 5								
Female	9.4	13.7	32.2	13.4	3.1	16.8	861.3	6.6
Male	9.7	14.6	32.1	14.6	3.1	17.3	906.6	7.1
Total	19.1	14.1	64.4	14.0	6.2	17.0	1767.8	6.8
5-14								
Female	15.1	22.1	53.6	22.2	4.4	24.6	1,733.4	13.2
Male	16.9	25.2	54.4	24.8	4.8	26.4	1,822.9	14.2
Total	32.0	23.6	108.0	23.4	9.2	25.5	3,556.4	13.7
15-24								
Female	13.5	19.7	46.2	19.2	3.8	20.8	1,787.5	13.6
Male	11.7	17.4	43.0	19.6	3.6	19.9	1,854.2	14.4
Total	25.2	18.6	89.2	19.4	7.4	20.3	3,641.8	14.0
25-44								
Female	21.2	30.9	73.7	30.5	4.7	25.9	4,457.4	33.9
Male	19.0	28.4	60.4	27.5	4.4	24.7	4,412.1	34.4
Total	40.1	29.7	134.1	29.1	9.2	25.3	8,869.6	34.1
45-64								
Female	7.4	10.8	27.6	11.4	1.8	9.7	2,637.8	20.1
Male	7.6	11.3	22.8	10.4	1.7	9.4	2,601.8	20.3
Total	15.0	11.1	50.4	11.0	3.4	9.6	5,239.5	20.2
65 and over								
Female	1.8	2.7	7.9	3.3	0.4	2.2	1,656.3	12.6
Male	2.0	3.0	6.7	3.0	0.4	2.3	1,246.2	9.7
Total	3.8	2.8	14.6	3.2	0.8	2.2	2,902.6	11.2
Total all ages								
Female	68.4	100.0	241.2	100.0	18.2	100.0	13,133.9	100.0
Male	66.8	100.0	219.4	100.0	18.0	100.0	12,843.8	100.0
Total	135.3	100.0	460.7	100.0	36.2	100.0	25,977.7	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Catalogue no. 94-325-XPB.

Table 1.5

Percentage of people who moved within the last five years, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
People aged:												
15-24	67.1	57.2	62.5	64.4	54.9	59.8	63.1	58.7	61.0	53.6	46.1	49.8
25-44	72.6	65.4	69.2	65.3	63.7	64.6	66.4	65.6	66.0	59.7	61.3	60.5
45-64	52.8	48.7	50.7	43.8	41.7	42.9	45.4	48.5	47.0	29.4	30.0	29.7
65 and over	41.3	29.8	35.3	33.9	31.2	32.6	42.4*	37.7*	40.0*	22.9	21.2	22.2
Total 15 and over	66.3	58.1	62.4	59.6	55.4	57.7	60.9	59.2	60.1	45.4	45.5	45.4

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Table 1.6

Mobility status of people aged 15 and over,¹ 1991

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit	Non-Aboriginal
	%			
Non-movers	37.5	42.3	39.9	54.6
Movers	62.4	57.7	60.1	45.4
Non-migrants ²	38.5	35.6	47.0	22.1
Migrants	23.8	22.1	13.0	23.3
Internal	23.7	21.6	13.0	19.6
Intraprovincial	1.1	0.9	0.5*	15.8
Interprovincial	22.6	20.7	12.4	3.8
External	0.1*	0.5	x	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	84.2	288.4	20.8	20,510.1

¹ Refers to their place of residence five years earlier.

² Refers to those who had moved to a different address within the same census subdivision.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

FAMILY STATUS

Family status of Métis aged 15 to 64

Like most Canadians, the vast majority of Métis aged 15 to 64 live in a census family.¹ In 1991, 83% of Métis identified by the survey were spouses in a married or common-law union, lone parents, or never-married children still living at home. About the same proportion of North American Indians and non-Aboriginal people lived in this type of family, while the figure was somewhat higher for the Inuit (87%). (Table 2.1)

The remaining 16% of Métis did not live in a census family in 1991. These people were either living alone, with other relatives in an extended family² or with unrelated persons. Métis men were more likely than Métis women not to live in a census family. In 1991, 20% of men versus 13% of women lived alone, with other relatives or with unrelated persons.

In general, the characteristics of Métis living in a census family are similar to those of other Aboriginal peoples, but differ somewhat from the non-Aboriginal population. For example, 52% of Métis aged 15 to 64 were partners in a two-spouse family in 1991. This was about the same as the figures for other Aboriginal peoples, but lower than that of the non-Aboriginal population (62%).

A relatively large share of Métis aged 15 to 64 are lone parents. In 1991, 11% of Métis aged 15 to 64 headed lone-parent families, as did 10% of North American Indians and 7% of Inuit. In comparison, 4% of non-Aboriginal people were lone parents. And, mirroring the trend in the overall population, lone parenthood is much more common among women. Almost one in five Métis women was a lone parent (18%), versus just 2% of Métis men.

Métis aged 15 to 64 are also more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be never-married adults still living with their parents. In 1991, 21% of Métis were single sons or daughters living at home, somewhat higher than the figure for non-Aboriginal people (18%). In comparison, 22% of North American Indian and 28% of Inuit people lived in this type of family arrangement. The higher prevalence of never-married Métis and other Aboriginal peoples living at home may be a reflection of the relatively large percentage of young adults in these populations.

Métis women are less likely than their male counterparts to live at home with their parents. In 1991, 18% of Métis women aged 15 to 64 were single and living at home, versus almost one in four (24%) Métis men. This pattern was consistent for other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

¹ People living in a census family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents and never-married children living at home. People not living in a census family include those living alone, with other relatives in an extended family or with unrelated people.

² Using the Aboriginal Peoples Survey data, it is not possible to determine the proportion of Métis who live with relatives in an extended family. However, data from the 1991 Census of Canada, which has a broader definition of the Métis people, suggest that Métis and other Aboriginal peoples who are not living in a census family are more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to live with relatives.

Family status of Métis seniors

Although the majority of Métis seniors live in a census family, a large proportion have different living arrangements. In 1991, 56% of Métis aged 65 and over were either partners in a marital or common-law union or lone parents. At the same time though, 42% of senior Métis did not live in a census family. This was about the same as figures for the senior population of non-Aboriginal people (39%) and North American Indians (43%). However, Métis aged 65 and over were more than twice as likely as Inuit seniors to live alone, with other relatives or with unrelated people, 42% versus 19%.

Métis women aged 65 and over are less likely than their male counterparts to live in a census family. In 1991, 42% of senior Métis women were living with their spouse or common-law partner, while this was true of 59% of senior Métis men. Correspondingly, 47% senior Métis women, versus 37% of men, did not live in a census family. This pattern was also evident for other groups in the population.

Fertility rates

The fertility rate is higher among the Métis than among the non-Aboriginal population. In 1991, a total of 1,541 children were ever born per 1,000 Métis women aged 15 to 44, versus 1,097 for non-Aboriginal women. However, the fertility rate of Métis was not as high as that of other Aboriginal peoples. A total of 1,796 children were ever born per 1,000 North American Indian women, while the figure was 2,124 for Inuit women. (Chart 2.1)

Personal support network

The vast majority of Métis have a personal support network on which they can rely in case of emergency. In 1991, 93% of Métis aged 15 and over, along with 91% of North American Indians and 96% of Inuit, reported that where they live, there is someone whom they can contact when they need help. (Table 2.2)

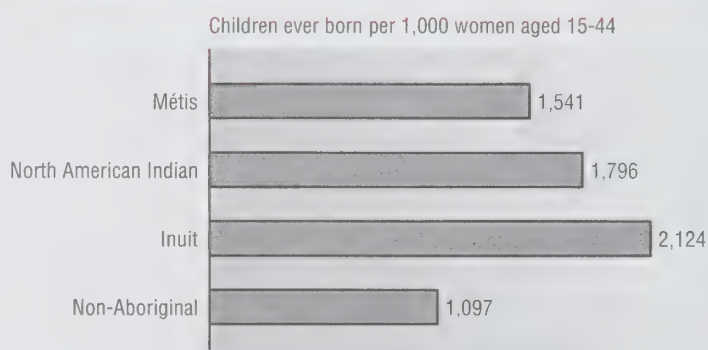
The family plays an important role in the personal support network of Métis. Of those Métis who reported having a support network in 1991, 50% said that they could seek help from their parents, 54% could turn to their spouse, and 79% could go to another family member when they needed someone's help in a hurry. At the same time, 82% of Métis reported that they could go to a friend in case of emergency, while another 66% would seek help from a neighbour. All these figures were similar to those for both North American Indian and Inuit people.

The Métis, though, are somewhat less likely than people in other Aboriginal groups to turn to an elder, Native worker or Native agency in emergency situations. In 1991, 26% of Métis reported they would go to an elder for help, compared with 32% of North



Chart 2.1

Fertility rate, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

American Indians and 38% of Inuit. As well, 18% of Métis, compared with 29% of North American Indian and 32% of Inuit peoples would turn to a Native worker or a Native agency in emergency situations. However, since the majority of Métis live in urban areas, they may be less likely than other Aboriginal peoples to have access to elders, Native workers or Native agencies.

Table 2.1

Family status,¹ 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
%												
People aged:												
15-64												
Spouse	50.7	52.6	51.6	52.3	49.2	50.9	54.8	49.9	52.4	62.6	60.7	61.7
Lone parent	18.2	2.4	10.7	16.9	2.8	10.4	10.8	2.1*	6.5	7.4	1.5	4.4
Never-married child												
living at home	17.8	24.2	20.8	17.6	27.8	22.3	25.3	30.9	28.0	15.5	20.4	17.9
Not living with their family	12.7	19.8	16.1	12.0	18.8	15.2	7.6	15.3	11.3	14.4	17.4	15.9
Total aged 15-64 ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
65 and over												
Spouse	41.8	58.5	50.4	31.4	58.0	43.6	39.9*	60.4*	50.2	43.3	76.1	57.4
Lone parent	8.9*	x	5.8*	15.9	7.0	11.8	35.3*	22.9*	29.1*	5.5	1.8	3.9
Never-married child												
living at home	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.1	0.1	0.1
Not living with their family	47.1	37.4	42.1	51.0	32.9	42.7	24.2*	x	19.3*	51.1	22.0	38.6
Total aged 65 and over ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15 and over												
Spouse	50.4	52.9	51.6	51.3	49.6	50.5	54.3	50.3	52.4	59.6	62.6	61.1
Lone parent	17.8	2.4	10.4	16.8	3.0	10.4	11.7	2.9*	7.4	7.1	1.6	4.4
Never-married child												
living at home	17.1	23.0	19.9	16.8	26.4	21.2	24.3	29.7	27.0	13.1	17.9	15.4
Not living with their family	14.1	20.7	17.3	14.0	19.9	16.6	8.2	15.3	11.7	20.2	18.0	19.1
Total ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ In this context, family refers to a census family. People living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. People not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives or with unrelated people.

² Includes those who did not state their family status.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Table 2.2

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over who had someone to turn to in an emergency, 1991

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit
		%	
Mother or father	50.0	51.1	52.5
Spouse	54.0	53.1	52.9
Another member of the family	79.3	79.0	80.7
Someone else residing in the same household	29.5	37.5	42.4
An elder	26.3	32.3	37.6
A friend	81.5	78.4	81.0
A neighbour	66.4	66.5	68.7
A Native worker or Native agency	17.7	29.0	31.9
Someone else	14.1	13.3	19.7
Total reporting availability of someone to contact	93.1	91.2	95.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-533-XPB.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Official languages

Virtually all Métis identified by the survey can speak at least one of Canada's official languages. In 1991, 82% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that they could carry on a conversation in English and 4% in French, while 14% spoke both English and French. The remainder, less than half a percent (0.2%), could not speak either official language. (Table 3.1)

The Métis people's knowledge of official languages differs somewhat from that of other Aboriginal peoples. For instance, a substantial share of the Métis population, 14% in 1991, were bilingual, that is, they could carry on a conversation in either English or French. This was more than double the figure for North American Indians (6%) and seven times that for Inuit (2%). At the same time, a marginal proportion of Métis (0.2%) could not speak either official language, compared with 2% of North American Indians and 13% of Inuit.

Across different age groups, Métis are most likely to speak only English. In 1991, English was the only official language spoken by 88% of Métis aged 15 to 24, 82% of those aged 25 to 44, 77% of those aged 45 to 64, and 64% of those aged 65 and over. Between 3% and 5% of Métis in different age ranges spoke French but not English.

However, considerable shares of Métis in older age ranges could carry on a conversation in either English or French. In 1991, 26% of Métis seniors were bilingual, more than twice the figure for the senior population as a whole (12%).¹ As well, 17% of Métis aged 45 to 64 spoke both official languages, the same as the figure for the total population in this age group. However, the percentage of bilingual Métis fell to 14% among those aged 25 to 44, and to 9% for those aged 15 to 24, compared with approximately 20% of the total population in each of these age ranges. This suggests that the ability to speak French is becoming less common among the Métis people.

Ability to speak an Aboriginal language

Relatively few Métis are able to carry on a conversation in an Aboriginal language. Of the Métis identified by the 1991 survey, 18% reported that they could speak an Aboriginal language. In contrast, the figures were 38% for North American Indians and 75% for Inuit. However, it is important to note that for many Métis, the language of the Métis community is English or French. (Chart 3.1)

At the same time, a small share of Métis had learned an Aboriginal language, but have since lost their ability to speak it. Six percent of Métis aged 15 and over who could not speak an Aboriginal language in 1991 reported that they were once able to do so. Similar shares of North American Indians (6%) and Inuit (3%) had also lost the ability to speak their Aboriginal language.

¹ Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 93-318-XPB.

However, the vast majority of Métis have never learned to speak an Aboriginal language. In 1991, nearly three-quarters (74%) of Métis aged 15 and over reported that they had never been able to speak an Aboriginal language, compared with half (52%) of North American Indians and less than one-quarter (22%) of Inuit people.

Lack of contact with others who speak their language is the main reason for loss of Aboriginal languages among the Métis. In 1991, this was cited by 46% of Métis who could no longer speak their Aboriginal language. Another 31% said they had forgotten the language, while 9% felt they had lost their language as a result of prohibitions placed on Aboriginal languages.² The remaining 19% did not specify a reason. (Chart 3.2)

The majority (70%) of Métis who reported that they could converse in an Aboriginal language in 1991 spoke Cree. At the same time, 16% spoke Ojibwa, 6% spoke Michif³ and 11% spoke another Aboriginal language. (Chart 3.3)

The ability to speak an Aboriginal language is much less common among Métis in younger age groups, suggesting that Aboriginal languages are being passed on to fewer people with each successive generation. In 1991, just 5% of Métis children aged 5 to 14 and 8% of Métis aged 15 to 24 could speak an Aboriginal language, compared with 14% of those aged 25 to 44, one-third (33%) of those aged 45 to 64, and more than half (54%) of those aged 65 and over. (Table 3.2)

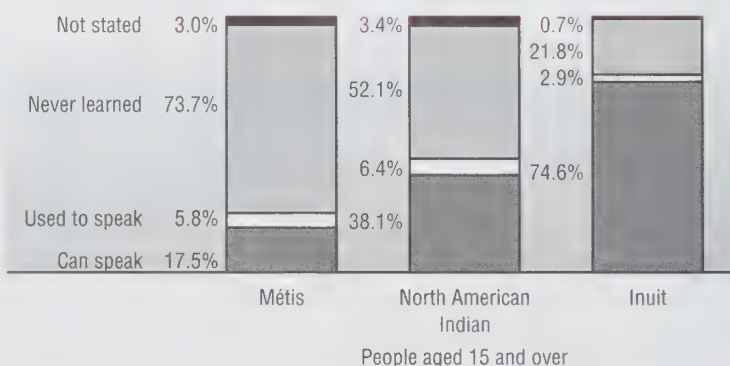
Participation in traditional activities

Compared with speaking Aboriginal languages, somewhat greater numbers of Métis participate in traditional activities. These may include economic subsistence activities, such as hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as cultural ones like storytelling, traditional dancing, fiddle playing, jigging, and arts and crafts. In 1991, 40% of all Métis aged 15 and over reported participating in traditional activities. (Table 3.3)



Chart 3.1

Ability to speak an Aboriginal language, 1991

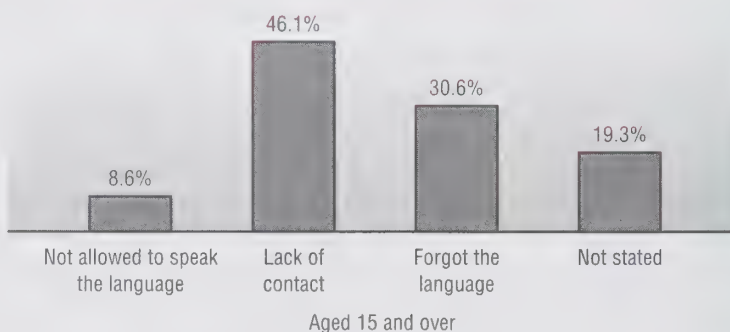


Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.



Chart 3.2

Reasons for loss of Aboriginal language among Métis, 1991



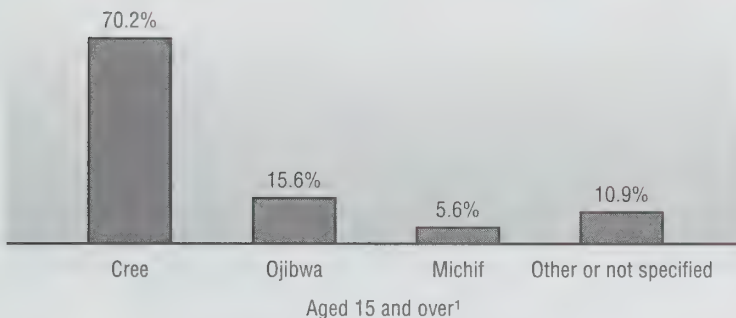
Note: Figures do not add up to 100% because respondents could report more than one reason.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

² The use of the Michif language, for example, was actively discouraged by missionaries, teachers and as a result of pressure from the broader community. For more information on this subject, see *The Métis Nation*.

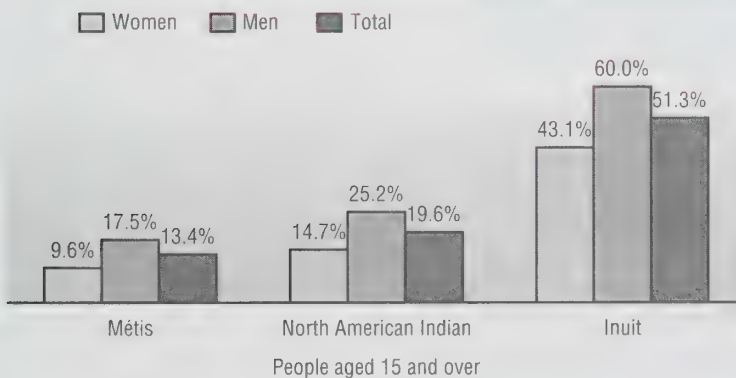
³ Michif is an exclusively oral language developed by Métis. In fact, there are two distinct Michif languages, Michif French and Michif Cree. In *Michif Dictionary: Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree*, Michif is described as follows: An observation of the available evidence shows that far from being a random mixture of elements from a lot of languages – French, Chippewa, Cree, English, Gaelic, Assiniboine, etc. – Michif is dominated by two, French and Cree, and in a pattern of combination which is most unusual and in its way, very rigorous.

Chart 3.3

Aboriginal language(s) spoken by Métis, 1991

¹ Expressed as a percentage of those who could speak an Aboriginal language.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Chart 3.4

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples living on the land away from home, 1991¹

¹ At some point during the twelve months prior to the survey.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Younger Métis tend to be slightly more involved in traditional activities than their older counterparts. In 1991, around 40% of Métis in both the 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 age ranges participated in traditional activities, while this was the case for 37% of those aged 45 to 64 and 32% of those aged 65 and over. As well, 29% of Métis aged 5 to 14 reported taking part in such activities.

Time spent on the land

Going away from home to hunt, trap, fish or participate in other traditional activities has been an important part of the life of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The *Natural Resources Transfer Agreements* signed in 1930 by the federal government and the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where the majority of the Métis people live, state that "Indians shall have the right, which the Province hereby assures to them, of hunting, trapping game and fishing for food at all seasons of the year on all unoccupied Crown lands and on any other lands to which the said Indians may have right of access." However, as noted, there is presently no legally recognized land base for the Métis people, and Métis are currently subject to the same regulations with regard to these activities as non-Aboriginal people.

Nevertheless, a substantial share of Métis people still spend some time living on the land away from home. In 1991, 13% of Métis aged 15 and over had lived on the land in the previous twelve months, compared with 20% of North American Indians and 51% of Inuit people. (Chart 3.4)

Métis people are most likely to spend a relatively short period of time on the land each year. In 1991, 41% of Métis who periodically lived on the land, reported that they spent just one to two weeks away from home over the last twelve months, compared with 32% of North American Indians and 31% of Inuit. However, more than one in four Métis (28%) said that they spent 5 to 20 weeks a year on the land, slightly higher than the figure for North American Indians (26%), but lower than that for the Inuit (32%). (Table 3.4)

Another activity which illustrates the importance of traditional activities to the Métis people is hunting and fishing for food. In 1991, 54% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that some of their food was obtained through hunting and fishing. However, just 13% stated that at least half of their meat, fish and poultry was obtained in this way. (Chart 3.5)

As well, Métis are slightly less likely than other Aboriginal peoples to hunt and fish for food. Although over half of Métis (54%) reported that they obtained some of their food through hunting and fishing, this was true of 58% of North American Indians and 89% of Inuit. At the same time, the share of Métis (13%) who obtained at least half of their meat, fish or poultry through hunting and fishing was also smaller than that of North American Indians (20%) and Inuit (66%).

Aboriginal-language communication media

The majority of Métis report having access to Aboriginal-language television, radio, videos and recordings. In 1991, 87% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that television programs were available in an Aboriginal language, while 85% reported so for recordings, 84% for radio, and 82% for videos.⁴

Although only 18% of Métis could speak an Aboriginal language in 1991, a considerable share used Aboriginal-language means of communication. Of those Métis who had such media available to them, 36% reported that they watched television programs, while 20% listened to radio, 12% listened to recordings and 11% watched videos. (Table 3.5)

Métis aged 45 to 64 are most likely to use media offered in an Aboriginal language. For example, 48% of Métis aged 45 to 64, compared with 44% of those aged 65 and over, 35% of those aged 25 to 44 and 29% of those aged 15 to 24, reported they watched television programs in an Aboriginal language in 1991.

It is interesting to note, however, that in the 15 to 24 age group, the overall proportion of Métis who used Aboriginal-language communication media was higher than the proportion who could speak an Aboriginal language. This may indicate that the promotion of Aboriginal cultures through these media is particularly attractive to young Métis.

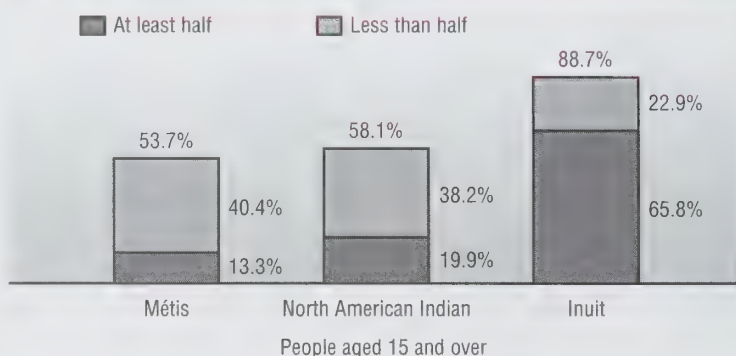
In fact, data suggest that in most age groups, more Métis people watched Aboriginal-language television programming than could speak an Aboriginal language. One-third of Métis aged 45 to 64 reported that they could speak an Aboriginal language, while almost half watched Aboriginal television. Again figures were particularly striking among younger Métis. In 1991, just 8% of Métis aged 15 to 24 spoke an Aboriginal language, but 29% reported watching Aboriginal-language television. Similarly, only 5% of Métis aged 5 to 14 spoke an Aboriginal language, while 19% watched television programs in an Aboriginal language. (Table 3.6)

⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.



Chart 3.5

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who obtained food¹ through hunting and fishing, 1991



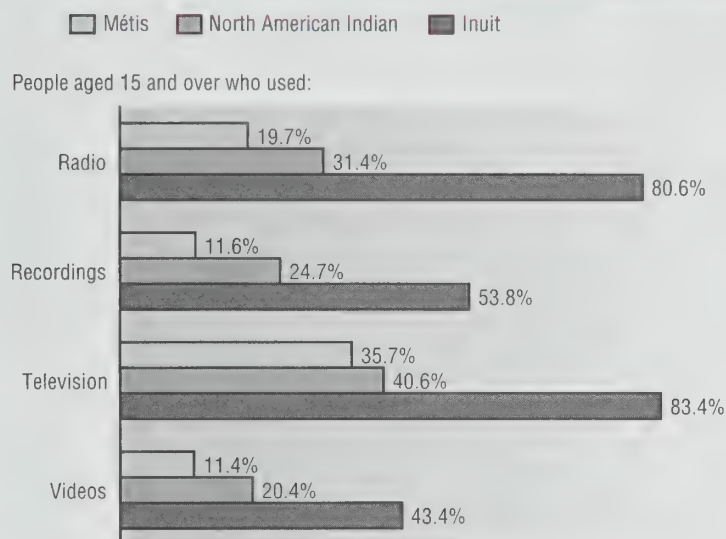
¹ Includes meat, fish and poultry.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-533-XPB.



Chart 3.6

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who used communication media in an Aboriginal language,¹ 1991



However, the Métis are less likely to use these media than people in other Aboriginal groups. In 1991, for example, 36% of Métis aged 15 and over reported watching television in an Aboriginal language, versus 41% of North American Indians and 83% of Inuit. Similarly, 20% of Métis, compared with 31% of North American Indians and 81% of Inuit, reported listening to radio in an Aboriginal language. (Chart 3.6)

As is the case for adults, Métis children are much less likely than children who identified with other Aboriginal groups to use media offered in Native languages. For instance, in 1991, 19% of Métis children aged 5 to 14 reported watching television programs offered in an Aboriginal language, versus 28% North American Indian and 76% of Inuit children. (Table 3.6)

¹ Includes only those who reported that these media were available to them in an Aboriginal language.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 3.1

Knowledge of official languages among Aboriginal peoples, 1991

	English only	French only	Both English and French	Neither English nor French	Total ¹
	%				
Métis people aged:					
15-24	87.8	3.2	8.9	x	100.0
25-44	82.4	3.4	13.9	x	100.0
45-64	77.0	5.1	17.0	x	100.0
65 and over	64.1	3.4*	26.3	3.5*	100.0
Total 15 and over	82.2	3.7	13.5	0.2*	100.0
North American Indian people aged:					
15-24	89.6	4.2	4.9	0.4	100.0
25-44	87.8	4.3	6.6	0.6	100.0
45-64	81.5	5.1	6.7	5.5	100.0
65 and over	70.1	5.2	5.7	16.9	100.0
Total 15 and over	86.4	4.4	6.1	2.2	100.0
Inuit people aged:					
15-24	89.7	4.3*	2.5*	2.6*	100.0
25-44	90.8	x	2.2*	5.3	100.0
45-64	50.4	x	x	45.7	100.0
65 and over	31.1*	x	x	63.4	100.0
Total 15 and over	81.4	1.8	2.2	13.3	100.0

¹ Includes those who did not state their knowledge of official languages.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.



Table 3.2

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who could speak an Aboriginal language,¹ 1991

	Women	Men	Total
		%	
Métis people aged:			
5-14	5.7	4.3	5.0
15-24	7.6	8.4	8.0
25-44	13.2	15.7	14.3
45-64	33.4	31.7	32.6
65 and over	55.6	52.5	54.0
Total 15 and over	16.7	18.4	17.5
North American Indian people aged:			
5-14	22.3	22.2	22.3
15-24	26.9	29.4	28.1
25-44	33.6	37.4	35.3
45-64	53.5	55.9	54.6
65 and over	65.6	69.1	67.2
Total 15 and over	36.8	39.6	38.1
Inuit people aged:			
5-14	68.7	65.4	67.0
15-24	66.8	75.6	71.1
25-44	72.3	70.7	71.5
45-64	89.0	83.9	86.4
65 and over	86.6	92.8	89.7
Total 15 and over	73.7	75.5	74.6

¹ Includes those who could speak well enough to carry on a conversation.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 3.3

Percentage of Métis who participated in traditional Aboriginal activities, 1991

	Women	Men	Total
	%		
People aged:			
5-14	27.4	29.8	28.7
15-24	34.9	46.4	40.3
25-44	36.8	46.4	41.3
45-64	32.9	40.6	36.8
65 and over	33.1	30.9	31.9
Total 15 and over	35.4	44.5	39.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 3.4

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over who live on the land away from home, 1991¹

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%								
Number of weeks:									
1-2 weeks	40.0	41.8	41.1	33.0	32.0	32.4	34.2	29.4	31.4
3-4 weeks	21.1	18.0	19.2	22.8	21.3	21.9	28.7	27.1	27.8
5-20 weeks	27.8	28.2	28.1	24.3	27.1	26.0	28.9	33.4	31.5
More than 20 weeks	2.1*	2.8*	2.6*	5.3	5.4	5.4	2.5*	5.3*	4.1
Total ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population living on the land (000s)	4.2	7.1	11.3	22.8	33.5	56.4	4.6	6.1	10.7

¹ Includes those who lived on the land at some point during the past twelve months.² Includes those who did not report the total number of weeks spent living on the land.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.



Table 3.5

Percentage of Métis who used communication media in an Aboriginal language, 1991

	Radio	Recordings	Television	Videos
	%			
People aged:				
15-24				
Women	16.1	9.4	30.1	10.6
Men	13.2	11.1	27.4	12.7
Total	14.7	10.2	28.9	11.6
25-44				
Women	18.9	13.3	34.5	10.9
Men	19.7	10.5	34.9	12.0
Total	19.3	12.0	34.7	11.4
45-64				
Women	26.0	13.6	47.8	11.1
Men	28.7	13.1	47.9	13.4
Total	27.3	13.3	47.8	12.2
65 and over				
Women	23.4	10.3*	46.4	x
Men	31.4	10.1*	41.3	8.9*
Total	27.6	10.2*	43.9	7.1*
Total 15 and over				
Women	19.4	12.0	35.9	10.6
Men	20.0	11.1	35.4	12.3
Total	19.7	11.6	35.7	11.4

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 3.6

Percentage of Aboriginal children who used communication media in an Aboriginal language, 1991

	Radio	Recordings	Television	Videos
	%			
Children aged 5-14:				
Métis				
Female	8.6	9.3	17.6	7.7
Male	7.8	7.4	20.9	7.7
Total	8.2	8.3	19.3	7.7
North American Indian				
Female	20.0	22.1	29.4	17.2
Male	17.7	19.7	27.2	17.3
Total	18.9	20.9	28.4	17.3
Inuit				
Female	67.5	47.2	75.0	39.7
Male	64.3	45.4	76.6	40.0
Total	65.9	46.3	75.8	39.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

EDUCATION

Highest level of educational attainment¹

More than one in three (36%) Métis aged 15 to 64 identified by the 1991 survey had some training beyond high school. However, the Métis are less likely than the non-Aboriginal population to have a postsecondary education. In 1991, for example, just 6% of Métis aged 15 to 64 held a university degree, compared with 15% of non-Aboriginal people. As well, a slightly smaller share of Métis had a postsecondary certificate or diploma, 18% versus 21%. (Table 4.1)

On the other hand, Métis are more likely than the non-Aboriginal population to have less than a Grade 9 education. In 1991, 16% of Métis had no schooling beyond Grade 8, compared with 10% of non-Aboriginal people. Similarly, 37% of Métis had attended but had not completed high school, while this was the case for 24% of non-Aboriginal people.

Although about the same share of Métis and North American Indians have postsecondary training, the Métis are less likely to have very low levels of formal education. In 1991, 16% of Métis had less than a Grade 9 education, compared with 21% of North American Indian people. As well, 37% of Métis had attended but not completed high school, compared with 35% of North American Indians.

At the same time, the Métis have higher levels of formal education than the Inuit. For example, 6% of Métis had a university degree in 1991, three times the figure for Inuit (2%). As well, the Métis were less than half as likely as the Inuit to have no schooling beyond Grade 8, 16% versus 42%.

Age and educational attainment

Métis aged 25 to 44 are more likely to have postsecondary training than those in older age groups. For example, in 1991, 9% of Métis aged 25 to 44, compared with 6% of those aged 45 to 64, had a university degree. Similarly, 25% of Métis aged 25 to 44 held a postsecondary certificate or diploma, while this was true for 18% of those aged 45 to 64. In addition, Métis aged 25 to 44 were considerably less likely to have less than a Grade 9 education, 12% versus 40%. (Table 4.2)

Although many young Métis adults have not yet completed their schooling, they are already less likely than Métis in older age groups to have low levels of educational attainment. In 1991, 9% of Métis aged 15 to 24, compared with 12% of those in the 25 to 44 age group and 40% of those aged 45 to 64, had less than a Grade 9 education. (Chart 4.1)

Young Métis adults are also less likely than those who identified with other Aboriginal peoples to have low levels of formal education. In 1991, 9% of Métis aged 15 to 24 had not gone beyond Grade 8, compared

¹ Data on educational attainment also include people still attending school.

with 15% of North American Indians and 36% of Inuit in that age range. However, only 3% of non-Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 had less than a Grade 9 education.

The majority of young Métis are currently attending school. In 1991, 53% of Métis aged 15 to 24 were in school, 49% as full-time students and the remaining 4% on a part-time basis. In comparison, just under half (49%) of North American Indians and 39% of Inuit in this age group were in school. However, young Métis were less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be attending school, 53% versus 62%. (Table 4.3)

Educational attainment of men and women

Métis women tend to have slightly higher levels of educational attainment than their male counterparts. For example, 7% of Métis women aged 15 to 64, compared with 5% of Métis men, held a university degree in 1991. Métis women were also somewhat more likely than men to have some postsecondary schooling,² 14% versus 10%, but were slightly less likely to have a postsecondary certificate or diploma, 17% versus 19%. (Table 4.1)

Major field of study

The most common field of study³ reported by Métis who have taken postsecondary training is engineering and applied science technologies and trades. In 1991, 31% of Métis aged 15 to 64 reported this to be their major field of study, while 21% had studied commerce, management and business administration. (Table 4.4)

A larger share of Métis than non-Aboriginal people studied engineering and applied science technologies and trades, 31% compared with 23%. As well, the Métis were slightly more likely than non-Aboriginal people to have taken social science and related programs, 11% versus 9%, but only half as likely to have studied humanities and related sciences, 3% versus 6%.

On the other hand, there are few differences in the field of postsecondary study of Métis and North American Indian peoples. The Métis, though, were considerably less likely than the Inuit to have taken engineering and applied science technologies and trades, 31% compared with 46%. At the same time, the Métis were more likely than Inuit to have studied social sciences and related programs, 11% versus 6%, or fine and applied arts, 7% versus 2%.

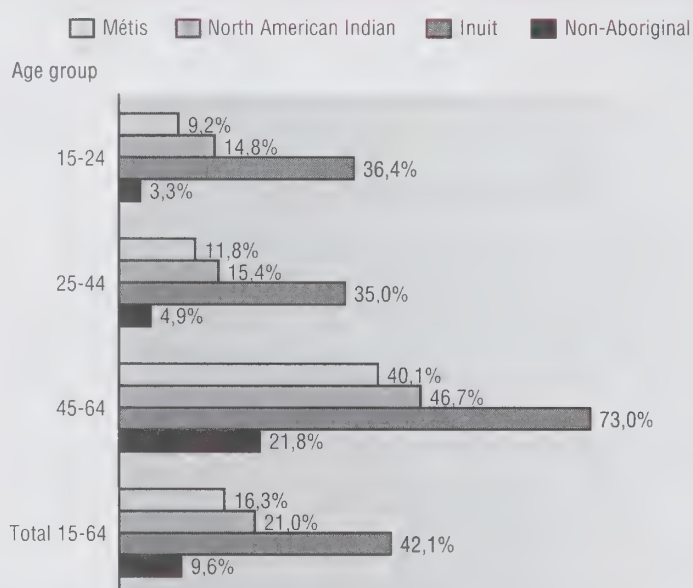
² These individuals have attended a postsecondary institution but did not have a certificate or diploma in 1991.

³ Refers to the main discipline or area of training of a person's highest postsecondary degree, certificate or diploma.



Chart 4.1

Percentage of people with less than a Grade 9 education, 1991

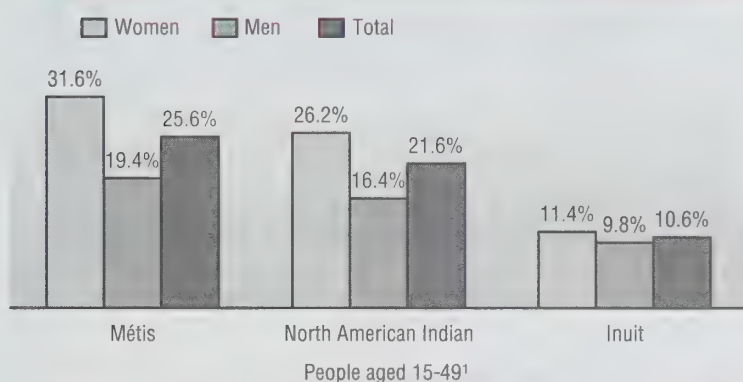


Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Métis men and women also tend to pursue their postsecondary training in different fields. For instance, more than half of Métis men studied engineering and applied technologies and trades (58%) at the postsecondary level, compared with only 6% of Métis women. In contrast, Métis women were concentrated in fields such as commerce, management and business administration (32%), education, recreation and counselling (15%), and health professions, sciences and technologies (15%). In fact, Métis women were about three times more likely than their male counterparts to have taken any of these programs.

Chart 4.2

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who returned to continue or finish high school, 1991



¹ Includes those who never attended or did not complete high school.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

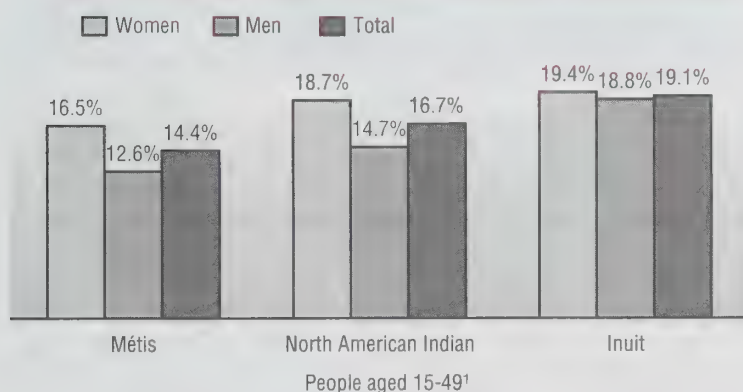
Continuing education

Many Métis who left school eventually returned to continue or finish high school. In 1991, 26% of Métis aged 15 to 49 who had never attended or not completed high school reported that they had returned to school. In comparison, this was the case for slightly smaller shares of North American Indians (22%) and Inuit (11%). (Chart 4.2)

In addition, other Métis who did not return to school took adult upgrading toward high school equivalency. In 1991, 14% of Métis who had either never attended or not completed secondary school reported that they had taken high school equivalency upgrading. This, however, was lower than the figures for North American Indians (17%) and Inuit (19%). (Chart 4.3)

Chart 4.3

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who took upgrading toward high school equivalency, 1991



¹ Includes those who never attended or did not complete high school.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Métis women are considerably more likely than men to have gone back to school. In 1991, 32% of Métis women aged 15 to 49 who had either never attended high school or not graduated reported that they had returned to secondary school, compared with 19% of their male counterparts. Women were also slightly more likely than men to have taken upgrading toward high school equivalency, 17% versus 13%.

Aboriginal teachers

Fewer than one in four Métis children have had Aboriginal school teachers. In 1991, 22% of children aged 5 to 14 reported that they had an Aboriginal teacher in elementary school. Métis children were also considerably less likely to have had Aboriginal teachers than North American Indian (41%) and Inuit children (78%). These variations may be explained in part, by the fact that the Métis are a largely urban population who have tended to be educated in provincial rather than Aboriginal schools. (Chart 4.4)

The share of Métis children who have been taught by Aboriginal teachers, however, is greater than it was for older Métis. While 22% of Métis children aged 5 to 14 had an Aboriginal teacher in elementary school, this was the case for only 16% of Métis currently aged 15 to 49. In fact, an even smaller share of Métis in the 15 to 49 age range had an Aboriginal high school teacher (13%).

Like Métis children, adult Métis are less likely than other Aboriginal peoples to have had Native teachers in school. Just 16% of Métis aged 15 to 49, compared with 22% of North American Indians and 54% of Inuit reported that they had at least one Aboriginal teacher in elementary school. In contrast, North American Indian people living on reserve and Inuit people living in Inuit communities are more likely to have attended a school administered by their Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal languages in the classroom

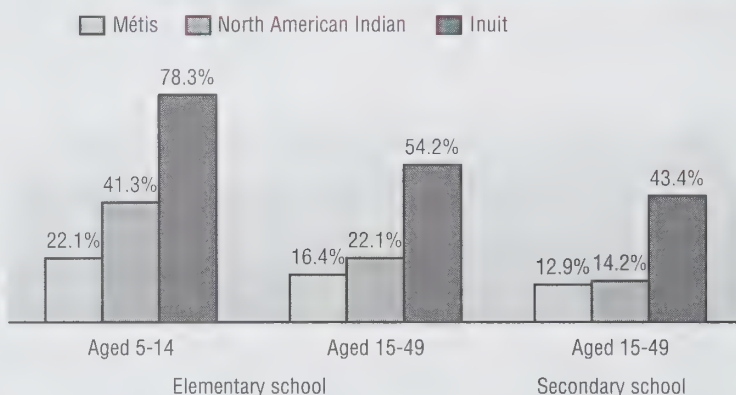
Only a small percentage of Métis children reported that an Aboriginal language was used as the language of instruction at school. In 1991, for example, just 10% of Métis aged 5 to 14 reported that their elementary school teachers used an Aboriginal language in the classroom, compared with 26% of North American Indian and 73% of Inuit children. (Chart 4.5)

However, the share of Métis children who have been taught in an Aboriginal language (10%) is higher than it was for older Métis. In fact, just 4% of Métis aged 15 to 49 reported they had been taught in an Aboriginal language at some time during their elementary schooling.



Chart 4.4

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who were taught by Aboriginal teachers, 1991

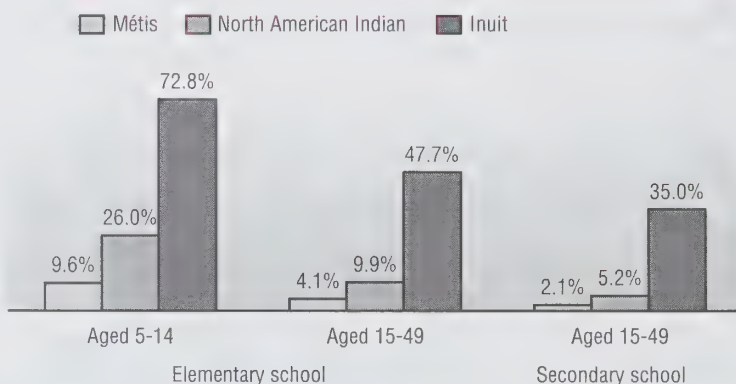


Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-534-XPB.



Chart 4.5

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who were taught in an Aboriginal language, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-534-XPB.

Table 4.1

Educational attainment of people aged 15-64,¹ 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Educational attainment:												
Less than Grade 9 ²	15.1	17.6	16.3	20.1	22.1	21.0	43.6	40.5	42.1	9.4	9.7	9.6
Some secondary school	36.8	37.8	37.3	33.2	36.3	34.6	25.4	23.2	24.3	23.6	24.1	23.9
High school graduate	9.7	10.3	10.0	9.2	8.4	8.9	5.7	3.8	4.8	17.4	13.9	15.7
Some postsecondary	14.2	10.3	12.3	13.9	11.1	12.6	11.1	9.8	10.4	15.4	14.4	15.0
Postsecondary certificate/diploma ³	16.9	18.9	17.9	16.5	16.8	16.7	11.9	20.6	16.1	20.1	22.2	21.1
University degree ⁴	6.9	4.8	5.9	6.8	4.7	5.8	1.7*	1.7*	1.7	14.0	15.5	14.7
Total ⁵	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	42.1	38.2	80.3	147.5	126.3	273.8	10.3	9.7	20.0	8,882.8	8,868.1	17,750.9

¹ Includes people still attending school.² Includes no formal schooling.³ Includes trade certificate.⁴ Includes university certificate/diploma below Bachelor's level.⁵ Includes those who did not report their educational attainment.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Table 4.2

Educational attainment of Métis,¹ 1991

	People aged:								
	15-24			25-44			45-64		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%								
Educational attainment:									
Less than Grade 9 ²	8.1	10.5	9.2	10.3	13.5	11.8	41.4	38.7	40.1
Some secondary school	54.8	59.3	56.9	30.1	30.3	30.2	23.2	23.4	23.3
High school graduate	11.6	13.3	12.4	10.4	10.1	10.2	4.3	6.2	5.3
Some postsecondary	15.2	8.8	12.2	15.6	13.0	14.4	8.6	5.7	7.1
Postsecondary certificate/diploma ³	6.9	6.6	6.8	24.1	25.1	24.6	14.7	22.1	18.4
University degree ⁴	2.2*	x	1.4	9.7	7.8	8.8	7.8	3.9*	5.8
Total ⁵	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Includes people still attending school.² Includes no formal schooling.³ Includes trade certificate.⁴ Includes university certificate/diploma below Bachelor's level.⁵ Includes those who did not report their educational attainment.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

EDUCATION



Table 4.3

School attendance by people aged 15-24, 1991

	Attending school full time	Attending school part time	Total attending school %	Not attending school	Total ¹
Métis					
Women	48.6	4.4	53.0	45.9	100.0
Men	48.4	3.7	52.1	46.9	100.0
Total	48.6	4.0	52.6	46.3	100.0
North American Indian					
Women	43.2	5.0	48.2	50.7	100.0
Men	46.0	2.8	48.8	49.9	100.0
Total	44.6	3.9	48.5	50.3	100.0
Inuit					
Women	34.6	3.2*	37.8	61.2	100.0
Men	37.0	2.4*	39.4	59.7	100.0
Total	35.8	2.9*	38.7	60.4	100.0
Non-Aboriginal					
Women	56.2	6.7	62.9	37.2	100.0
Men	55.7	6.0	61.7	38.3	100.0
Total	55.9	6.3	62.2	37.7	100.0

¹ Includes those who did not state their school attendance.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Table 4.4

Major field of study of people aged 15-64 who have taken postsecondary training,¹ 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Education, recreation and counselling	15.0	5.3	10.4	15.3	6.9	11.6	20.5*	5.3*	11.3	15.1	5.4	10.0
Fine and applied arts	10.2	3.7	7.1	7.4	2.7	5.4	x	x	2.3*	8.1	3.4	5.7
Humanities and related	2.7*	2.4*	2.5	4.0	2.9	3.5	x	x	2.3*	7.0	5.2	6.1
Social sciences and related	11.5	10.3	11.0	13.3	10.7	12.1	x	5.9*	5.6*	9.2	8.5	8.9
Commerce, management and business administration	32.0	9.7	21.4	30.1	10.7	21.5	42.1	7.1*	20.8	29.8	15.7	22.4
Agricultural and biological sciences/technologies	6.1	4.3	5.3	5.6	4.1	4.9	6.1*	x	4.2*	4.4	4.8	4.6
Engineering and applied sciences	x	1.4*	0.9*	x	1.4	0.7	x	x	x	0.8	6.7	3.8
Engineering and applied science technologies and trades	6.4	58.3	31.0	6.4	56.3	28.4	7.6*	70.7	46.0	3.6	41.4	23.4
Health professions, sciences and technologies	14.6	3.8	9.5	17.3	3.0	11.0	10.9*	x	6.2*	19.3	4.0	11.3
Mathematics and physical sciences	0.9*	0.9*	0.9*	0.3*	1.1*	0.6	x	x	x	2.2	4.4	3.4
Total ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	10.0	9.0	19.1	34.4	27.1	61.6	1.4	2.2	3.6	3,322.8	3,628.6	6,951.4

¹ Refers to the main discipline or area of training of a person's highest postsecondary degree, certificate or diploma.

² Includes all fields not elsewhere classified and persons with no specialization.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

Employment

Slightly more than half of the Métis identified by the survey are employed. In 1991, 52% of Métis aged 15 to 64 had jobs in the labour force.¹ Nonetheless, the Métis were considerably less likely to be employed than the non-Aboriginal population, 70% of whom had jobs that year. At the same time, though, the Métis were more likely to be employed than both the Inuit (44%) and North American Indian peoples (43%). (Table 5.1)

Among the Métis, those aged 25 to 44 are the most likely to be employed. In 1991, 62% of Métis people between the ages of 25 and 44 had jobs in the labour force, compared with 50% of those aged 45 to 64 and 36% of those aged 15 to 24. As well, at all ages, Métis are more likely than other Aboriginal peoples to be employed, but less likely to be so than non-Aboriginal people.

Like other groups in the population, the employment levels of Métis men are higher than those of Métis women. In 1991, 57% of Métis men aged 15 to 64, versus 47% of their female counterparts, had jobs in the labour force. This pattern was consistent across all age groups, but was especially pronounced among those aged 25 to 44. That year, 69% of Métis men aged 25 to 44 were employed, compared with 56% of women.

Other activities

Some Métis support themselves and their families through activities outside the formal labour force. This may be done to supplement employment income or as an alternative to paid work in the labour force. In 1990, 10% of Métis were involved in unpaid activities such as fishing or hunting for food, cutting wood, or trading for food or other services. However, the Métis were not as likely as North American Indians (14%) or Inuit (30%) to engage in these alternatives to the labour force. This difference may be a reflection of the large share of Métis who live in urban centres. (Chart 5.1)

Education and employment

Like other groups in the population, the percentage of Métis who are employed is higher among those with more formal education. For example, 77% of Métis who had a university degree were employed in 1991, as were 69% of those with a postsecondary certificate or diploma. In both cases, this was more than double the figure for Métis with less than Grade 9, just 33% of whom had jobs that year. (Table 5.2)

As well, Métis women are less likely than men to be employed at almost all levels of educational attainment. For example, 70% of Métis women with a university degree, compared with 89% of men, were employed

¹ The labour force includes people who are employed as well as those who are unemployed, that is, they are out of work, but looking for work. People who are not in the labour force are neither employed nor looking for work.

in 1991. Similarly, just over half (56%) of female Métis high school graduates had jobs that year, versus nearly three-quarters (74%) of their male counterparts. The exception to this pattern was observed among Métis with some postsecondary training. An equal share of Métis women and men (57%) with some postsecondary schooling had jobs in the labour force in 1991.

Occupation

The most common occupation among Métis people is that of manual worker. In 1991, 29% of employed Métis aged 15 to 64 had jobs as manual workers, the same as the figures for employed North American Indian and Inuit peoples. However, the Métis were more likely to be employed as manual workers than non-Aboriginal people (21%). (Table 5.3)

Relatively large shares of Métis people also work in service and clerical occupations. In 1991, 16% of employed Métis were service workers and 14% held clerical positions. Overall, Métis were somewhat more likely than other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to work at service jobs, while they were less likely to be in clerical occupations.

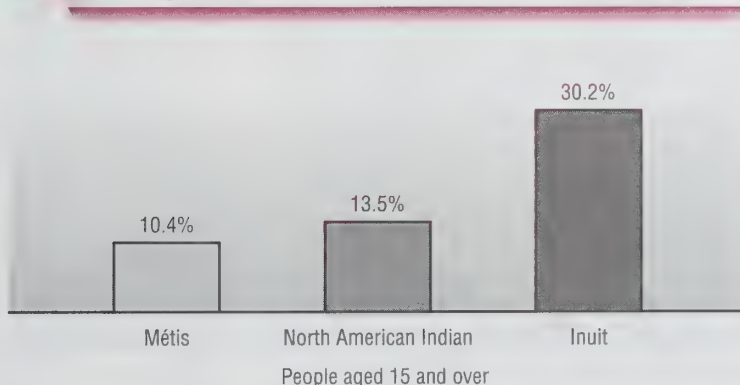
In contrast, relatively few Métis are employed in professional or managerial occupations. For instance, 9% of employed Métis held professional positions in 1991, compared with 11% of other Aboriginal peoples, and 14% of the non-Aboriginal work force. Similarly, just 6% of Métis were employed as managers, slightly lower than the figures for both North American Indians (8%) and Inuit (8%), and considerably below that for non-Aboriginal people (11%).

Métis men and women tend to do very different types of work in the labour force. For example, nearly half (45%) of Métis men were employed as manual workers in 1991, compared with just 13% of women. As well, 13% of Métis men worked at skilled crafts or trades, while this was the case for only 1% of women. On the other hand, fully half of employed Métis women worked in service and clerical occupations in 1991. That year, 25% of employed Métis women aged 15 to 64 worked in service occupations and another 25% held clerical jobs. In sharp contrast, 7% of employed Métis men worked in service occupations and just 5% had clerical jobs. Women were also twice as likely as men to be employed as professionals, 12% versus 6%.



Chart 5.1

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples who supported themselves through activities for which they did not receive money, 1990¹



¹ Refers to the period from January 1990 to June 1991.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-534-XPB.

Part-time employment

Nearly one in four (23%) employed Métis aged 15 to 64 worked part time² in 1990, somewhat higher than the figure for the non-Aboriginal population (20%). However, the rate of part-time employment was about the same for the Métis (23%) as it was for North American Indians (23%) and Inuit (24%). (Table 5.4)

² Part-time jobs are defined as those of less than 30 hours per week.

Métis women are twice as likely to work part time as Métis men. In 1990, 31% of employed Métis women worked at a part-time job, compared with 16% of men. Similarly, women in other groups were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to work part time.

While about the same percentage of Métis and non-Aboriginal women worked part time in 1990, 31% and 29% respectively, part-time employment was more common among Métis than non-Aboriginal men. In 1990, 16% of employed Métis men had part-time jobs, compared with 11% of non-Aboriginal men.

Part-time employment is highest among Métis youth. In 1990, 39% of employed Métis aged 15 to 24 worked part time, compared with 18% of those aged 25 to 44 and 17% of those in the 45 to 64 age range. However, at all ages, women are more likely than men to work part time. This is especially striking for those in the 25 to 44 age range. In 1990, 27% of employed Métis women aged 25 to 44 were part-time workers, versus just 9% of their male contemporaries. (Chart 5.2)

Self-employment

A small share of Métis are self-employed. In 1991, 7% of employed Métis worked for themselves, slightly lower than the figure for the non-Aboriginal work force (9%). However, self-employment is somewhat more common among the Métis than among those identifying with other Aboriginal peoples. For instance, 5% of Inuit and 4% of North American Indian peoples working in the labour force in 1991 were self-employed. Métis men were also twice as likely as their female counterparts to be self-employed, 9% versus 4%. (Table 5.5)

Métis business-owners are far more likely to have used private than public sources of business financing. In 1991, 70% of Métis reported that their businesses had been self-funded, or that they had obtained money from family and friends, and 30% had gotten a loan from a bank or trust company. On the other hand, just 7% received financing from a provincial or territorial government, 6% from an Aboriginal development corporation, and 3% from the federal government. (Table 5.6)

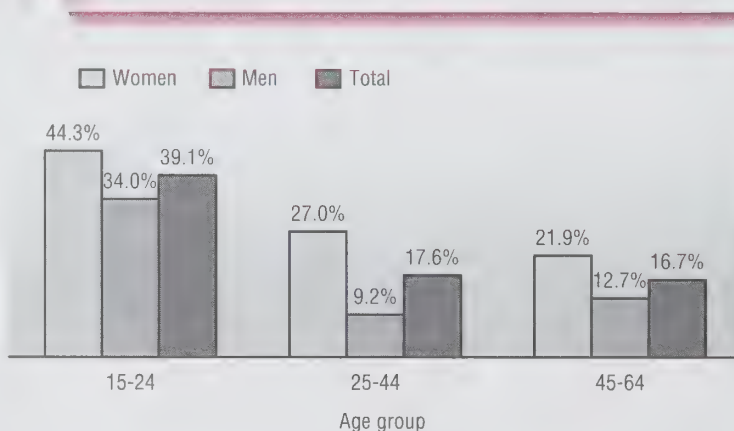
Métis who owned a business in 1991 were only half as likely as their North American Indian counterparts to have obtained funding from an Aboriginal development corporation, 6% versus 12%. Similarly, the federal government was a source of financing for 3% of Métis businesses, but for 6% of those owned by North American Indians. On the other hand, Métis were more likely to have received provincial or territorial government business financing, 7% versus 3%.

Unemployment

Unemployment rates are considerably higher among the Métis than the non-Aboriginal population. In 1991, 21.8% of the Métis labour force aged 15 to 64 were

Chart 5.2

Percentage of employed Métis working part time, 1990



Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

unemployed, more than twice the rate for the non-Aboriginal labour force (10.0%). However, the unemployment rate of Métis (21.8%) was lower than that of other Aboriginal peoples. In 1991, 25.1% of the Inuit and 25.5% of the North American Indian labour force were unemployed. (Table 5.7)

Young Métis adults experience higher rates of unemployment than their older counterparts. In 1991, the unemployment rate of Métis aged 15 to 24 was 28.6%, compared with 20.0% for Métis aged 25 to 44 and 18.4% of those in the 45 to 64 age range. This general trend was also consistent for the non-Aboriginal population. However, the rate of unemployment was twice as high among the Métis than among non-Aboriginal people in every age group.

In contrast, the Métis have lower rates of unemployment than other Aboriginal peoples, at all ages. Even among those aged 15 to 24, the group which experiences the highest unemployment, the unemployment rate of Métis (28.6%) was about four percentage points lower than that of both North American Indians (32.8%) and Inuit (32.6%).

Métis men experience considerably higher rates of unemployment than Métis women. In 1991, 24.9% of the male Métis labour force aged 15 to 64 were unemployed, compared with 18.1% of the female labour force. This was true at all ages. For instance, one in three (32.7%) Métis men aged 15 to 24 in the labour force was unemployed that year, versus one in four (23.9%) of their female counterparts. In addition, the unemployment rate of Métis men aged 45 to 64 (23.6%) was twice that of their female contemporaries (11.3%).

Problems finding a job

More than three out of four Métis (77%) who looked for a job at some time during 1990 or 1991³ encountered difficulties. The most common problem, cited by 62% of Métis who looked for work, was a lack of jobs in their area of residence. Another 42% stated that their education or work experience did not match the available jobs, and 22% felt that they did not have enough information about the job openings. As well, more than one in ten Métis (12%) who had looked for work felt that being an Aboriginal person made it difficult to find a job. (Table 5.8)

In general, about the same percentage of Métis and other Aboriginal peoples reported encountering most types of problems during their job search. However, Métis were less likely than North American Indians to state that they faced difficulties because of their Aboriginal identity, 12% versus 18%.

For the most part, Métis men and women were equally likely to report various types of problems when searching for employment. However, the tendency for mothers to have primary responsibility for children appears to cause particular problems. For example, 13% of Métis women, compared with only 3% of Métis men aged 15 to 64 said that not being able to find someone to look after the children made it difficult to look for work. Métis women aged 25 to 44 were most likely to report this problem. In 1991, 17% had trouble looking for a job because of child-care responsibilities, compared with 11% of women aged 15 to 24. (Table 5.9)

³ Includes all of 1990 and up to June 1991.

Not in the labour force

Approximately one in three Métis do not participate in the labour force. In 1991, 34% of Métis aged 15 to 64 were not labour force participants, much higher than the figure for the non-Aboriginal population (22%). The Métis, though, were less likely than other Aboriginal peoples not to be in the labour force. That year, 42% of North American Indians and 41% of Inuit people were not labour force participants. (Table 5.10)

Among the Métis population, young adults are the most likely not to participate in the labour force. In 1991, about half (49%) of Métis aged 15 to 24 were not in the labour force, compared with 22% of Métis aged 25 to 44 and 39% of those in the 45 to 64 age range. However, as noted in the chapter on education, more than half (53%) of Métis aged 15 to 24 were attending school in 1991.

A larger percentage of Métis women than men do not participate in the labour force. Overall, 42% of Métis women aged 15 to 64, versus 24% of men, were not in the labour force in 1991. This was also true of other groups in the population. For example, 30% of non-Aboriginal women, versus 15% of men, were not in the labour force. Similarly, 49% of North American Indian and 46% of Inuit women were non-labour force participants, compared with 33% and 35% of their respective male counterparts.

As well, Métis women are more likely than men to be out of the labour force at all ages. For instance, among the Métis aged 45 to 64, 48% of women, versus 30% of men were not in the labour force in 1991. The gap was largest, though, in the 25 to 44 age range. Nearly one in three Métis women aged 25 to 44 (32%) were not labour force participants, compared with about one in ten men (11%).





Table 5.1

Percentage of people employed, 1991

	People aged:			
	15-24	25-44	45-64	Total 15-64
	%			
Métis				
Women	33.4	55.9	46.1	47.0
Men	38.3	69.0	53.2	56.5
Total	35.7	62.1	49.7	51.5
North American Indian				
Women	26.4	47.3	38.3	39.1
Men	30.0	60.1	49.1	47.9
Total	28.1	53.1	43.2	43.1
Inuit				
Women	30.6	49.6	35.3	40.2
Men	27.6	63.9	52.1	48.4
Total	29.2	56.5	43.5	44.2
Non-Aboriginal				
Women	56.4	71.9	52.7	63.1
Men	58.4	85.7	74.6	76.7
Total	57.4	78.8	63.6	69.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.



Table 5.2

Percentage of Métis employed by educational attainment, 1991

	People aged:											
	15-24			25-44			45-64			Total 15-64		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Educational attainment:												
Less than Grade 9	x	19.7*	12.9*	34.4	46.8	41.1	30.3	37.2	33.6	27.4	37.7	32.7
Some secondary school	24.8	30.8	27.7	47.3	64.7	55.5	49.0	59.2	54.2	36.7	47.8	42.1
High school graduate	50.7	67.3	59.0	58.4	80.7	68.8	64.9	69.3	67.5	55.9	74.1	64.8
Some postsecondary	60.0	58.4	59.5	56.8	56.4	56.6	51.3	58.4*	54.2	57.3	57.1	57.3
Postsecondary certificate/diploma ¹	46.6	53.7	49.8	67.6	81.4	74.3	64.4	64.3	64.4	64.4	74.4	69.4
University degree ²	55.1*	x	57.8*	71.8	91.4	80.1	71.2	80.7*	74.4	70.0	89.2	77.4
Total ³	33.4	38.3	35.7	55.9	69.0	62.1	46.1	53.2	49.7	47.0	56.5	51.5

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

¹ Includes trade certificate.

² Includes university certificate/diploma below Bachelor's level.

³ Includes those who did not specify their educational attainment.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 5.3

Occupational distribution of employed people aged 15-64, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Managerial	6.9	5.4	6.2	7.3	8.4	7.8	6.9*	8.6	7.8	8.6	12.8	10.9
Professional	11.8	5.9	8.7	15.7	6.1	10.8	17.7	4.7*	10.8	17.1	11.9	14.2
Semi-professional/ technical	6.7	4.4	5.5	5.6	3.4	4.4	6.6*	6.7*	6.6	5.6	4.4	5.0
Supervisor/foreman/ forewoman	3.1	6.4	4.9	2.2	4.3	3.2	x	3.4*	2.4*	3.0	6.3	4.8
Clerical	24.9	4.6	14.3	27.8	6.0	16.7	27.4	9.4	17.8	29.9	6.4	17.0
Sales	4.7	5.4	5.1	5.2	4.2	4.7	2.4*	2.3*	2.4*	7.9	7.5	7.7
Service	25.4	7.3	16.0	18.4	8.4	13.3	18.0	6.3*	11.8	13.0	6.7	9.5
Skilled crafts/trades	1.1*	13.2	7.4	1.0	11.3	6.3	1.9*	13.9	8.3	1.4	11.5	6.9
Manual worker	12.5	44.7	29.3	12.4	43.9	28.5	14.1	41.6	28.7	10.0	29.2	20.5
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed (000s)	19.8	21.6	41.4	57.6	60.4	118.1	4.1	4.7	8.8	5,605.2	6,805.0	12,410.2

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

¹ Includes those who did not state their occupation.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 94-325-XPB and Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 5.4

Percentage of employed people aged 15-64 working part time, 1990

	Women	Men	Total
	%		
Métis	31.1	16.2	23.2
North American Indian	29.9	16.0	22.7
Inuit	32.1	17.7	24.3
Non-Aboriginal	29.2	11.4	19.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.



Table 5.5

Percentage of employed people aged 15-64 by class of worker, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Employees	94.5	90.6	92.4	95.6	94.2	94.9	96.1	93.2	94.6	93.4	87.7	90.3
Self-employed	4.4	8.7	6.6	3.3	5.0*	4.2	3.1*	6.2	4.7	5.9	12.1	9.2
Unpaid family workers	0.5*	0.3*	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	x	x	x	0.7	0.2	0.4
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed (000s)	27.7	30.9	58.7	87.6	93.0	180.7	6.8	7.7	14.5	6,751.8	7,903.0	14,654.8

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

¹ Includes those who did not state their status.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.



Table 5.6

Source of financing used to start up a business, 1991¹

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit
	%		
Source of financing: ²			
Bank or trust company	30.3	24.1	20.1*
Aboriginal development corporation	5.5*	12.0	x
Federal government	3.1*	5.6	x
Provincial or territorial government	7.0	3.1	x
Family, friends or self-funding	70.4	65.9	61.8
Other	5.2*	6.7	x
Total who own a business (000s)	5.3	12.8	0.5

¹ Includes all those aged 15-64 who owned a business in 1991.

² Respondents could report more than one source of financing.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.



Table 5.7

Unemployment rates, 1991

	People aged:			
	15-24	25-44	45-64	Total 15-64
	%			
Métis				
Women	23.9	17.5	11.3	18.1
Men	32.7	22.1	23.6	24.9
Total	28.6	20.0	18.4	21.8
North American Indian				
Women	28.6	22.1	17.0	22.7
Men	36.4	26.1	22.7	28.0
Total	32.8	24.2	20.1	25.5
Inuit				
Women	27.8	25.8	16.0*	25.0
Men	37.4	22.3	16.4*	25.1
Total	32.6	23.9	16.2*	25.1
Non-Aboriginal				
Women	14.2	9.4	7.9	10.0
Men	16.0	9.3	7.6	9.9
Total	15.1	9.4	7.7	10.0

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.



Table 5.8

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15-64 who encountered problems when looking for a job in 1990 or 1991¹

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit
	%		
Type of problem: ²			
Few or no jobs in the area where they live	62.1	65.8	70.9
Education or work experience did not match the available jobs	42.4	40.6	38.0
Could not find anyone to look after children	8.2	8.3	9.3
Did not have enough information about available jobs	22.1	27.3	23.9
Being an Aboriginal person	11.5	17.8	11.9
Other	8.5	10.6	8.3
Total who encountered at least one problem	76.8	80.1	82.8
Total who looked for a job in 1990 or 1991 (000s)	28.2	93.3	7.2

¹ Refers to the period from January 1990 to June 1991.

² Respondents could report more than one type of problem.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 5.9

Percentage of Métis who encountered problems when looking for a job in 1990 or 1991¹

Type of problem: ²	People aged:											
	15-24			25-44			45-64			Total 15-64		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Few or no jobs in the area were they live	57.6	64.5	61.2	56.7	68.4	62.3	56.6	69.4	64.7	57.1	67.0	62.1
Education or work experience did not match the available jobs	42.7	48.0	45.4	42.3	40.9	41.6	32.6	35.2	34.3	41.7	43.1	42.4
Could not find anyone to look after children	10.7	x	5.8	17.1	5.6	11.6	x	x	x	13.4	3.2	8.2
Did not have enough information about available jobs	19.5	26.7	23.2	19.8	22.9	21.3	25.6*	19.2	21.6	20.1	24.0	22.1
Being an Aboriginal person	10.7	9.0	9.9	12.5	13.2	12.8	12.3*	11.1*	11.5	11.8	11.2	11.5
Other	5.4*	10.2	7.9	8.8	8.6	8.7	14.4*	7.7*	10.2*	7.9	9.1	8.5
Total who encountered at least one problem	72.4	82.0	77.3	75.1	78.8	76.9	72.6	75.5	74.4	73.8	79.6	76.8
Total who looked for a job in 1990 or 1991 (000s)	5.4	5.8	11.3	7.3	6.7	14.0	1.1	1.8	2.9	13.8	14.3	28.2

¹ Refers to the period from January 1990 to June 1991.

² Respondents could report more than one type of problem.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 5.10

Percentage of people not in the labour force, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
People aged:												
15-24	54.8	42.1	48.9	62.0	51.6	57.0	56.5	55.1	55.8	34.3	30.5	32.4
25-44	32.3	11.3	22.4	39.2	18.6	29.9	33.1	17.8	25.7	20.5	5.5	13.1
45-64	48.0	30.3	39.1	53.8	36.3	45.9	58.0	37.7	48.1	42.7	19.3	31.1
Total 15-64	42.3	24.4	33.8	49.1	33.0	41.7	46.0	35.0	40.7	29.9	14.8	22.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

INCOME

Average annual personal income

The Métis identified by the survey have much lower incomes, on average, than the non-Aboriginal population. The average personal income of Métis aged 15 and over from all sources¹ was \$16,200 in 1990, about 50% less than the income of non-Aboriginal people (\$24,200). (Table 6.1)

Métis aged 25 to 44 have higher incomes than those in other age ranges. Métis aged 25 to 44 had an average personal income of \$19,700 in 1990, compared with \$18,900 for those in the 45 to 64 age range, \$12,200 for Métis aged 65 and over, and just \$7,900 for those aged 15 to 24. In all instances, though, these averages were lower than those for the non-Aboriginal population.

Métis women tend to have lower incomes than Métis men. In 1990, Métis women aged 15 and over had an average personal income of \$12,600, just 64% as much as the income of men (\$19,800). Similarly, the incomes of non-Aboriginal women were 58% those of non-Aboriginal men. Métis women were also much more likely than their male counterparts to have no source of income. In 1990, 17% of Métis women reported no income, versus 10% of men. (Chart 6.1)

The incomes of Métis men are greater than those of women at all ages, although the gap was largest for those aged 25 to 44. The average personal income of women in this age range was just 61% that of men, \$14,900 versus \$24,600. In contrast, among Métis aged 65 and over, women's incomes were 82% those of men, \$13,900 versus \$13,300. (Table 6.1)

Composition of personal income

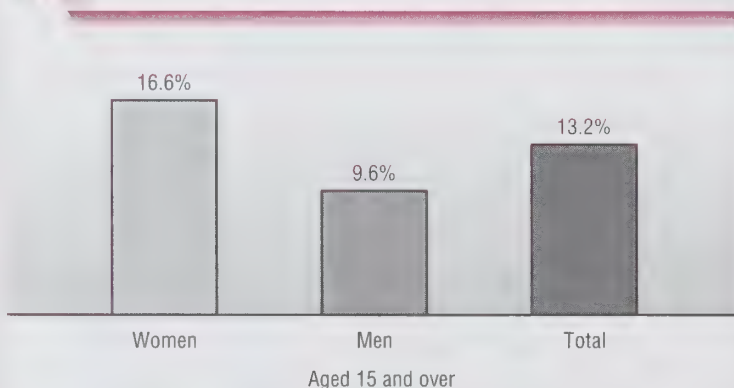
The majority of the personal income of non-elderly Métis people is derived from employment earnings. In 1990, wages, salaries and net income from self-employment were the source of 79% of the total income of the Métis aged 15 to 64. However, this was somewhat lower than the

¹ Includes employment income (wages and salaries as well as net income from self-employment), government transfer payments, investment income, and other money income.



Chart 6.1

Percentage of Métis with no income, 1990



Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

figure for non-Aboriginal people of this age, who received 87% of their personal income from employment. (Table 6.2)

On the other hand, transfer payments² make up a larger share of the personal income of the Métis than that of non-Aboriginal people. In 1990, 18% of the income of Métis people aged 15 to 64 was received in the form of government transfer payments. In contrast, 7% of the income of non-Aboriginal people came from this source.

Investment income and other money income account for minimal shares of the income of the Métis people. In 1990, just 1% of the total personal income of the Métis aged 15 to 64 came from investments, while this was the case for 4% of non-Aboriginal people. The remaining 2% of the income of the Métis in 1990 consisted of other money income such as retirement pensions, annuities, superannuation, scholarships and alimony. About the same percentage of the non-Aboriginal population's income was received from these sources.

The composition of the personal income of Métis women differs from that of Métis men. Among those aged 15 to 64, for example, Métis women received a smaller share of their income from employment activity, while the percentage derived from government transfers was larger. In 1990, 72% of Métis women's incomes came from employment earnings, compared with 84% of those of men. In contrast, transfer payments accounted for 24% of the income of Métis women, but only 15% of that of men.

There are considerable differences in the sources of income of senior Métis and non-Aboriginal seniors. In 1990, for example, 83% of the income of Métis aged 65 and over was comprised of government transfers, compared with 45% of that of non-Aboriginal seniors. However, senior Métis were much less likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to have income derived from investments, 2% versus 23%, or from other money income, 10% compared with 18%. The smaller share of income derived from other money sources may suggest that senior Métis are generally less likely than non-Aboriginal seniors to receive superannuation or private retirement pensions from their employment activity.

Among the population of senior Métis, the income composition of women is again, different from that of men. Senior Métis women receive more of their income from government transfer payments than senior Métis men, but less from other money income. In 1990, Métis women aged 65 and over received 89% of their income from transfers, compared with 79% for senior men. On the other hand, other money income accounted for just 3% of senior women's incomes, but for 14% of those of senior Métis men. This difference may be related to the fact that Métis men have higher levels of employment than women, and therefore, are more likely to receive superannuation and retirement pensions, which fall into the category of other money income.

² Government transfer payments include all social welfare payments from federal, provincial and municipal governments, such as: Child Tax Benefits, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplements, Spouse's Allowances, Canada/Quebec Pension Plans, Unemployment Insurance, worker's compensation, training allowances, veteran's pensions, social assistance, and pensions to the blind and people with disabilities. Refundable tax credits, and Goods and Services Tax Credits were included as other income.

Low incomes³

A relatively large share of the Métis population live in a low income situation. In fact, one in three Métis aged 15 and over (33%) lived with incomes which fell below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs⁴ in 1990. This was more than twice the figure for the non-Aboriginal population (15%). (Table 6.3)

Young Métis adults under age 25 are more likely than their older counterparts to have low incomes. In 1990, 40% of Métis aged 15 to 24 lived in a low income situation, versus 34% of Métis aged 65 and over, 32% of those aged 45 to 64 and 29% of those in the 25 to 44 age range. However, at all ages, the incidence of low income among the Métis was about twice that of the non-Aboriginal population.

A larger share of Métis women than men live with low incomes. In 1990, 36% of Métis women aged 15 and over lived with incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs, compared with 30% of their male counterparts. This was true in all age ranges, with the greatest gap observed among those aged 25 to 44. In 1990, 34% of women in this age range lived with low incomes, versus 24% of men.

The incidence of low income is also very high among Métis children. In 1990, 41% of Métis children under age 15 lived in a low income situation, more than twice the rate of low income among non-Aboriginal children (17%).

³ Low income is not measured in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories or on Indian reserves and settlements.

⁴ According to Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs, families or individuals are classified as "low income" if they spend on average at least 20 percentage points more of their pre-tax income than the Canadian average on food, shelter and clothing. The number of people in the family, and the size of the urban or rural area of residence are also taken into consideration. Note, however, that Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs are not official poverty lines. They have no officially recognized status as such, nor does Statistics Canada promote their use as poverty lines.

Table 6.1

Average personal income,¹ 1990

	Métis			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	\$					
People aged:						
15-24	7,300	8,600	7,900	8,700	10,800	9,800
25-44	14,900	24,600	19,700	20,800	34,000	27,700
45-64	14,500	22,700	18,900	19,600	38,800	29,800
65 and over	10,900	13,300	12,200	15,300	24,600	19,300
Total 15 and over	12,600	19,800	16,200	17,700	30,500	24,200

¹ Includes only those who reported an income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Table 6.2

Composition of personal income,¹ 1990

	People aged 15-64						People aged 65 and over					
	Métis			Non-Aboriginal			Métis			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%											
Source of income:												
Employment income	71.8	83.6	79.0	83.6	88.3	86.7	5.4*	5.3*	5.3*	7.5	18.4	13.4
Investment income	1.2	0.5	0.8	5.6	3.5	4.3	2.2*	1.7*	2.0	26.8	20.1	23.1
Transfer payments	23.6	14.5	18.1	8.1	5.7	6.6	89.0	78.7	83.1	53.1	39.0	45.4
Other money income	3.4	1.4	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.5	3.4*	14.3	9.6	12.6	22.4	18.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average total income (\$)	12,700	20,100	16,400	18,200	31,400	25,100	10,900	13,300	12,200	15,300	24,600	19,300

¹ Includes only those who reported an income.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

Table 6.3

Incidence of low income,¹ 1990

	Métis			Non-Aboriginal		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%					
People aged:						
Under 15	40.3	42.2	41.3	17.2	17.2	17.2
15-24	42.0	38.0	40.2	20.5	16.8	18.6
25-44	33.5	23.7	28.9	14.6	11.8	13.2
45-64	33.5	31.1	32.3	14.2	11.5	12.8
65 and over	36.7	32.1	34.3	22.9	13.7	18.9
Total 15 and over	36.2	29.7	33.1	16.8	12.9	14.9
Total population (000s)	65.1	63.1	128.3	13,012.4	12,703.3	25,715.7

¹ Note that low income is not measured in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories or on Indian reserves and settlements.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and Census of Canada.

HOUSING

Home tenure

The Métis are slightly more likely to rent than to own their homes. In 1991, 52% of all households with at least one person who identified as Métis¹ rented their accommodations, while 48% were homeowners. In contrast, 71% of non-Aboriginal households were owned. (Table 7.1)

The Métis, however, are more likely than other Aboriginal peoples to own their homes. In 1991, 48% of Métis households owned their home, compared with 40% of North American Indian households and 26% of Inuit households. It should be noted that 13% of North American Indian households lived in band housing. Taking this into consideration, the Métis were slightly more likely than North American Indian people to be renters, 52% versus 47%.

Dwellings needing repair

Almost half of all private dwellings which are home to at least one Métis person require repairs. In 1991, 47% of all Métis dwellings required some kind of repair aside from regular maintenance. That year, 17% needed major repairs, while 30% required minor repairs. (Table 7.2)

The homes of Métis and other Aboriginal peoples were equally likely to need repair. In 1991, 47% of Métis dwellings required repairs, as did 50% of North American Indian dwellings, and 43% of Inuit dwellings. On the other hand, just 32% of the homes of non-Aboriginal people needed repair.

Bathroom facilities

Although almost all Métis live in dwellings with bathroom facilities, a small percentage lack these basic amenities. In 1991, 2% of all Métis dwellings did not have facilities such as running water, indoor toilets, or bath and shower facilities. However, this was only about half the figure for North American Indian dwellings (4%). (Chart 7.1)

As well, a number of Métis live in dwellings which have bathroom facilities, but lack running water. In 1991, around 3% of all Métis dwellings with bathroom facilities did not have a hot or cold running water sink, while approximately 3% were without hot or cold running water bathtubs or showers. Again, the proportion of Métis dwellings without running water was only about half that of North American Indian dwellings. (Table 7.3)

¹ Throughout this chapter, households or dwellings which are home to at least one Métis person will be referred to as "Métis households" or "Métis dwellings."

HOUSING

Métis in rural areas are much more likely than those in urban areas to live in dwellings without bathroom facilities. In 1991, 6% of all rural Métis dwellings did not have bathroom facilities, compared with less than half a percent of those in urban areas. (Chart 7.1)

As well, 8% of rural Métis dwellings with bathroom facilities did not have either hot or cold running water sinks, or bathtub and shower facilities, compared with less than 1% of those in urban areas. (Table 7.3)

Means of obtaining drinking water

The majority of Métis get their drinking water from municipal water systems. In 1991, 76% of Métis households got their drinking water from this source, while 10% obtained water from household wells, 6% got their water from other community systems, such as wells or cisterns, and 3% used bottled water. At the same time, 3% obtained their drinking water directly from surface water such as lakes or rivers, and less than 1% directly from rain or snow. (Table 7.4)

While nearly all urban Métis get their drinking water from municipal systems, this was the case for less than half (42%) of Métis living in rural areas. In 1991, 29% of rural Métis households obtained their drinking water from a household well, 15% from community systems such as wells or cisterns, and 8% from surface water, rain or snow.

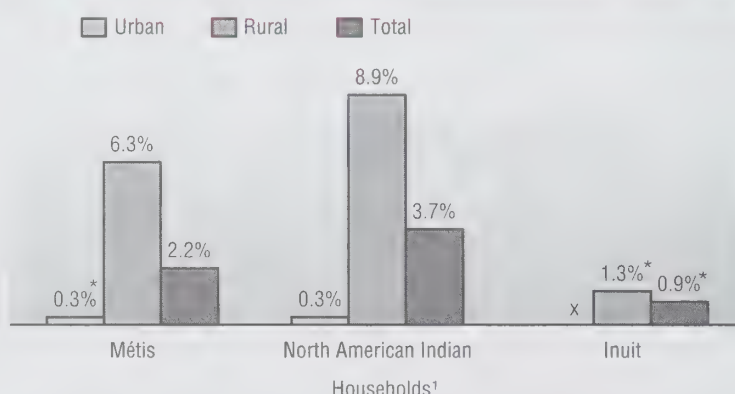
Persons per room

Métis homes tend to be more crowded than those of non-Aboriginal people. In 1991, there was an average of 0.6 persons per room in Métis dwellings, compared with 0.4 in non-Aboriginal dwellings. However, the homes of Métis had the same number of persons per room as those of North American Indians (0.6), while they were less crowded than Inuit homes (0.8). Although these averages are lower than the standard definition of overcrowding, which is more than one person per room, Métis dwellings were, on average, 50% more crowded than those of non-Aboriginal people. (Chart 7.2)



Chart 7.1

Percentage of Aboriginal households living in dwellings without bathroom facilities, 1991



* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

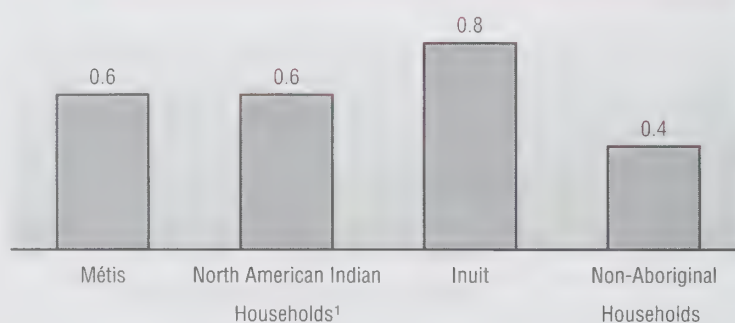
¹ Refers to households with at least one person who identified with that Aboriginal group.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.



Chart 7.2

Average number of persons per room in occupied private dwellings, 1991



¹ Refers to households with at least one person who identified with that Aboriginal group.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-535-XPB and Census of Canada.

Table 7.1

Housing tenure, 1991

	Households with at least one person who identified with:			Non-Aboriginal households
	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit	
	%			
Tenure:				
Owned	47.5	39.9	26.0	70.7
Rented	51.6	46.7	73.8	29.3
Band housing	0.9	13.4	x	--
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total households (000s)	65.0	177.4	9.7	25,725.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 94-325-XPB and 89-535-XPB.

Table 7.2

Percentage of households whose dwellings needed repair, 1991

	Households with at least one person who identified with:			Non-Aboriginal households
	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit	
	%			
Major repairs	16.9	20.8	18.3	7.9
Minor repairs	30.3	29.4	24.2	24.4
Total requiring repairs	47.2	50.2	42.5	32.3
Regular maintenance only	52.8	49.8	57.4	67.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total dwellings (000s)	65.0	177.4	9.7	25,725.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 94-325-XPB and 94-327-XPB.

Table 7.3

Percentage of Aboriginal households whose dwellings lacked selected bathroom facilities, 1991

	Households with at least one person who identified with:								
	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
	%								
Without a cold running water sink	3.9	0.4*	1.4	5.7	0.4	2.3	5.8	x	4.0
Without a hot running water sink	4.3	0.4*	1.5	6.3	0.3	2.5	5.6	x	3.8
Without a cold running water bathtub/shower	3.9	0.3*	1.4	5.7	0.4	2.4	5.9	x	4.0
Without a hot running water bathtub/shower	4.2	0.2*	1.4	6.1	0.2*	2.4	5.6	x	3.9
Without walls and a door	0.6*	x	0.2*	1.3	0.1*	0.5	1.0*	x	0.7*
Total households with bathroom facilities (000s)	18.4	42.3	60.7	59.9	100.4	160.3	6.3	3.0	9.3

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 7.4

Means of obtaining drinking water in Aboriginal households, 1991

	Households with at least one person who identified with:								
	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
	%								
Source of drinking water:									
Municipal water system	42.0	91.9	76.2	36.7	89.9	69.0	55.9	94.0	68.1
Community system (well/cistern)	14.7	1.8	5.9	25.4	1.4	10.8	9.0	x	6.4
Household well	28.7	0.9	9.6	22.4	0.9	9.4	4.7	x	3.4
Directly from surface water (lake/river/stream)	8.4	0.3*	2.8	9.5	0.4	4.0	37.5	x	25.9
Directly from rain, snow or dugout	1.4	x	0.4	1.1	x	0.4	3.1*	x	2.1*
Bottled water	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.7	3.9	3.4	1.3*	4.4*	2.3
Other source	3.0	x	1.0	2.1	0.2*	0.9	x	x	x
Unspecified source	3.4	4.8	4.4	5.1	6.4	5.9	2.5*	3.1	2.7
Total number of households (000s)	20.4	44.6	65.0	69.6	107.9	177.4	6.6	3.1	9.7

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

HEALTH

Health status

Overall, most Métis identified by the survey perceive themselves to be in good health.¹ In 1991, 87% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that they were at least in good health condition. In particular, 26% said their health was excellent, while 33% described it as very good, and 28% as good. In contrast, only 10% of Métis reported their health as fair and 3% as poor. (Table 8.1)

The self-reported health status of Métis resembles that of other Aboriginal peoples. For example, 87% of Métis said their health was good, as did 87% of North American Indians and 88% of Inuit. Similarly, 13% of Métis perceived their health as either fair or poor, along with 13% of North American Indians and 12% of Inuit.

Health problems

While only a small percentage of Métis feel that they are in fair or poor health, many report having some kind of health problem. In 1991, 43% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that they had at least one health problem. Health problems also tended to be slightly more prevalent among the Métis than among North American Indians (40%), and considerably more so than among the Inuit (33%). (Table 8.2)

Arthritis is the most common health problem reported by the Métis. In 1991, 40% of Métis aged 15 and over who had health problems said that they suffered from arthritis. As well, about one in four cited high blood pressure (27%) and bronchitis (25%), while heart problems and asthma were each reported by 16%. Emphysema and diabetes were each cited by 13% of Métis with health problems, while 6% had tuberculosis.

There are certain differences in the types of health problems reported by Métis and other Aboriginal peoples. For example, Métis were more likely to have arthritis. In 1991, 40% of Métis with health problems had arthritis, while this was the case for 36% of North American Indians and 31% of Inuit. Similarly, one in four (25%) Métis, compared with one in five (20%) North American Indians and one in six (15%) Inuit had bronchitis. In contrast, just 6% of Métis and 7% of North American Indians reported tuberculosis, a health problem which is particularly prevalent among the Inuit population (20%). Métis were also much more likely than the Inuit to report having diabetes, 13% versus 6%.

Métis women are considerably more likely than Métis men to report health problems. In 1991, just under half (47%) of Métis women aged 15 and over, compared with 38% of their male counterparts, said that they had at least one health problem. This pattern was consistent at all ages. (Table 8.3)

¹ Various socio-economic factors may have an impact on health. For example, poverty, access to health care, alcohol and substance abuse, sub-standard housing, child care, child welfare and family violence are examples of determinants of health. Some of these factors, for which data were available, have been discussed in previous chapters. For more information on this topic, please refer to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, *The Path to Healing*.

Métis women with health problems were much more likely than their male counterparts to have arthritis or bronchitis. In 1991, 43% of Métis women aged 15 and over, compared with 35% of Métis men had arthritis, and 28% of women, versus 20% of men, had bronchitis. In contrast, Métis men were somewhat more likely than Métis women to have high blood pressure, 28% versus 25%, or heart problems, 19% versus 14%.

Not surprisingly, Métis in older age ranges are most likely to report health problems. In 1991, 84% of Métis aged 65 and over had at least one health problem, compared with 68% of those aged 45 to 64, 39% of those aged 25 to 44 and 28% of those in the 15 to 24 age range.

The prevalence of certain health problems also increases with age. For example, in 1991, 61% of senior Métis with health problems reported that they had arthritis, compared with 59% of those aged 45 to 64, 34% of those aged 25 to 44, and 15% of those aged 15 to 24. However, other health problems such as asthma, bronchitis and epilepsy were less prevalent among older segments of the population. In 1991, 25% of Métis aged 15 to 24 with health problems had asthma, compared with 16% of those aged 25 to 44, 12% of those aged 45 to 64, and 11% of those aged 65 and over.

Contact with health-care professionals

The vast majority of Métis visit at least one health-care professional over the course of a year. During the twelve months prior to the survey, 76% of Métis aged 15 and over contacted a health-care professional on at least one occasion. This was somewhat higher than the figures for both North American Indians (73%) and Inuit (68%). (Table 8.4)

Métis are more likely to consult medical doctors, pharmacists and dentists than other types of health-care professionals. In 1991, 95% of Métis visited a medical doctor, 52% consulted a druggist or pharmacist, and 46% went to the dentist. As well, 37% saw an eye specialist.

The Métis people's pattern of contact with health professionals is similar to that of North American Indians, but differs from that of the Inuit. For instance, in 1991, 95% of Métis and 92% of North American Indians visited a medical doctor, compared with 71% of Inuit. Conversely, 36% of Métis and 38% of North American Indians consulted a nurse over the past year, versus 72% of Inuit. These differences may be a reflection of the availability of health-care services, since some Aboriginal people live in remote areas and others in urban centres. As noted in the first chapter, the Métis tend to be more urbanized than other Aboriginal groups.

Métis women are slightly more likely than Métis men to visit most types of health-care professionals. In 1991, 96% of Métis women aged 15 and over, versus 93% of men, consulted a medical doctor. Similarly, 49% of women visited a dentist, compared with 43% of men, and 39% of women, versus 34% of men, saw an eye specialist. (Table 8.5)

Since the chance of having at least one health problem increases with age, it is not surprising that Métis aged 65 and over are the most likely group to contact

health-care professionals. For instance, in 1991, 48% of senior Métis, versus 35% of those aged 15 to 24, visited an eye specialist. Similarly, 47% of senior Métis consulted a nurse, compared with 38% of those aged 15 to 24. However, senior Métis were only half as likely as those aged 15 to 24 to have seen a dentist, 25% versus 51%.

Most Métis children also visit at least one health-care professional over the course of a year. In 1991, 76% of Métis children under age 15 consulted a health-care professional. The most common types of professionals visited by Métis children that year were medical doctors (90%), dentists (46%) and nurses (41%). (Table 8.6)

Disabilities

A relatively large share of Métis aged 15 and over (32%) had disabilities² in 1991. This was considerably higher than the incidence of disability among the Canadian population as a whole (18%).³ The incidence of disability among Métis (32%) was about the same as it was among North American Indian (31%) and Inuit (29%) peoples. (Table 8.7)

As with health problems, the percentage of the Métis population with disabilities increases with age. For instance, 68% of Métis aged 55 and over reported that they had disabilities, compared with 37% of those aged 35 to 54, 23% of those aged 25 to 34, and 22% of those aged 15 to 24.

The majority of Métis with disabilities have a mild limitation.⁴ In 1991, almost two-thirds (65%) of Métis with disabilities were considered to have a mild disability. In comparison, 23% had moderate disabilities, while 12% were severely disabled. (Chart 8.1)

The share of Métis with severe disabilities is the same as that of North American Indians, but considerably higher than the figure for Inuit. In 1991, 12% of each of the Métis and North American Indian populations aged 15 and over were severely disabled, compared with 8% of the Inuit.

Mobility and agility are the most common types of disabilities reported by Métis. In 1991, 44% of Métis aged 15 and over reported a mobility disability, that is, they were limited in the ability to walk, move from room to room, carry an object a short distance, or stand for long periods. At the same time, 38% of Métis

² The 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey, like the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey, uses the World Health Organization's definition of disability: "...any restriction or lack (resulting from impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being." Aboriginal adults were asked questions about various limitations in activities related to daily living (sensory, mobility, agility, or other physical and psychological abilities) to determine the presence of a disability. The answers to the questions on disability represent the respondent's perception of the situation and are, therefore, subjective.

³ It should be noted that the only data available for comparison purposes refer to the overall Canadian population rather than the non-Aboriginal population. Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-542-XPE.

⁴ A severity scale for adults with disabilities was developed using responses to the activity limitation questions on the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey. Each respondent received a severity score by adding together the individual's responses to all activity limitation questions. One point was given for each partial loss of function and two points were given for each total loss of function (i.e. a complete inability to perform a function). The total score was then categorized as follows: mild (less than 5 points), moderate (5 to 10 points), or severe (11 or more points).

reported an agility disability; for example, they were limited in the ability to bend, dress or undress, get in or out of bed, grasp or handle objects, or reach or cut food. As well, about one-third (34%) had a hearing disability, and 22% had a sight disability. (Chart 8.2)

Smoking

Over half of the adult Métis population smoke cigarettes. In 1991, 54% of Métis aged 15 and over were current smokers. This includes 47% who smoked on a daily basis and 7% who smoked on occasion. The percentage of current smokers among the North American Indian population was the same, while it was much higher among Inuit people (71%). (Table 8.8)

The prevalence of smoking is highest among Métis aged 25 to 44. In 1991, 59% of Métis aged 25 to 44, compared with 54% of those aged 15 to 24 and 49% of those aged 45 to 64 were current smokers. In contrast, 37% of Métis aged 65 and over smoked in 1991. (Table 8.9)

Métis women and men are equally likely to smoke. In 1991, 55% of Métis women aged 15 and over, and 54% of men reported that they smoked cigarettes. This held true at most ages, with the exception of those aged 45 to 64. Women in this age range were more likely to smoke than men, 53% versus 45%.

Food shortages

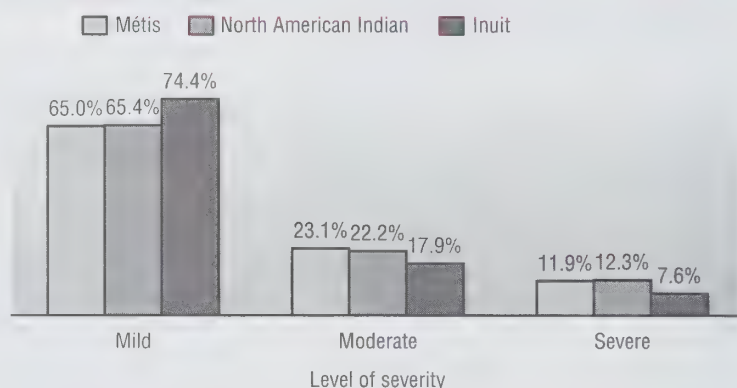
A small share of Métis experience problems of food shortage. In 1991, 7% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that the availability of food had been a problem during the last twelve months. This was about the same as the figure for North American Indians (8%), but considerably lower than that for the Inuit (13%). (Table 8.10)

Métis women are more likely than their male counterparts to experience food shortages. In 1991, 9% of Métis women aged 15 and over, versus 6% of Métis men, reported that they did not have enough food to eat at some point during the past year.

Lack of food, however, is not a recurrent problem for most Métis. In 1991, 2% of Métis aged 15 and over reported that food shortages occurred more than two days every month, and 2% reported that this occurred at least once or twice every month. For 4% of Métis, food shortages arose less than once a month.

Chart 8.1

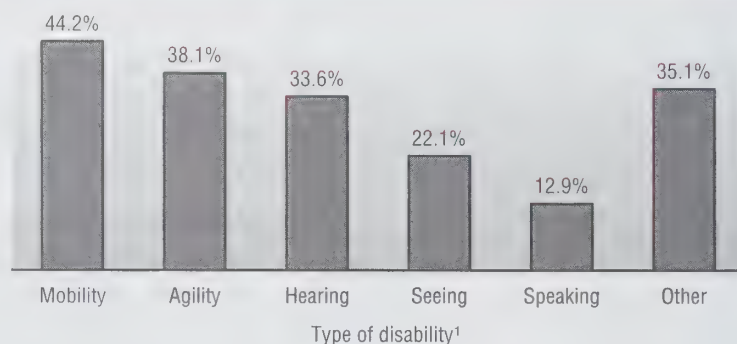
Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over with disabilities, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-535-XPB.

Chart 8.2

Percentage of Métis aged 15 and over with disabilities, 1991



¹ Figures do not add to 100% because respondents may have more than one type of disability.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-535-XPB.

Table 8.1

Self-perceived health status of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%								
Perceived health status:									
Excellent	24.0	28.7	26.2	24.0	28.8	26.2	26.0	28.1	27.0
Very good	34.2	31.7	33.0	31.1	32.2	31.6	28.2	28.8	28.4
Good	28.4	27.2	27.8	29.8	27.9	29.0	32.9	31.7	32.3
Fair	10.5	8.7	9.7	12.4	8.9	10.8	11.3	8.7	10.1
Poor	2.9	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.2	2.4	1.6*	2.7*	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total reporting health status (000s)	42.9	39.0	82.0	150.8	128.2	279.0	10.6	10.0	20.6

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.
Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.2

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over who reported health problems, 1991

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit
	%		
Health problem: ¹			
Diabetes	13.0	15.9	5.8
High blood pressure	26.6	29.0	28.8
Arthritis	40.0	36.4	31.1
Heart problems	16.4	16.0	18.4
Bronchitis	24.7	20.0	14.9
Emphysema	13.4	14.2	16.2
Asthma	16.0	13.7	10.0
Tuberculosis	5.8	7.2	19.5
Epilepsy	2.9	3.9	5.5
Other health problems	35.9	32.7	27.8
Total reporting at least one problem	42.7	40.3	33.3
Total reporting health problem(s) (000s)	36.0	116.2	6.9

¹ Columns do not add up to 100% because respondents could report more than one problem.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-533-XPB.

Table 8.3

Percentage of Métis who reported health problems, 1991

Health problem: ¹	People aged:								
	15-24			25-44			45-64		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%								
Diabetes	2.3*	x	2.4*	11.4	7.3	9.7	23.4	20.3	21.9
High blood pressure	14.1	12.0*	13.4	21.6	25.4	23.2	34.9	38.9	36.8
Arthritis	17.4	9.7*	14.6	37.9	29.2	34.4	66.8	50.4	59.1
Heart problems	6.8*	9.6*	7.8	12.4	12.4	12.4	14.0	25.9	19.6
Bronchitis	31.0	28.2	30.0	31.1	17.3	25.4	21.3	17.4	19.4
Emphysema	8.5	13.3	10.2	10.8	8.2	9.8	13.0	20.4	16.5
Asthma	24.0	28.1	25.4	16.9	13.6	15.6	13.3	10.2	11.8
Tuberculosis	4.8*	4.4*	4.7	3.4*	5.3	4.2	10.1	8.1	9.2
Epilepsy	6.9*	3.5*	5.7	2.4*	3.4*	2.9	2.3*	x	1.5*
Other health problems	30.3	36.8	32.6	38.9	37.5	38.4	34.3	36.0	35.1
Total reporting at least one problem	33.0	21.6	27.7	43.8	33.0	38.7	72.7	63.8	68.2
Total reporting health problem(s) (000s)	4.4	2.5	7.0	9.3	6.3	15.5	5.4	4.8	10.2

Health problem: ¹	65 and over			Total 15 and over		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%					
Diabetes	31.9	14.4*	23.2	14.2	11.4	13.0
High blood pressure	46.5	31.7	39.2	25.4	28.2	26.6
Arthritis	68.9	53.7	61.3	43.4	35.3	40.0
Heart problems	47.3	40.6	43.9	14.4	19.2	16.4
Bronchitis	26.6	25.4	26.0	28.2	20.0	24.7
Emphysema	32.4	24.5	28.4	12.6	14.7	13.4
Asthma	11.9*	9.6*	10.8	17.1	14.5	16.0
Tuberculosis	6.1*	x	5.0*	5.7	5.9	5.8
Epilepsy	x	x	x	3.3	2.3	2.9
Other health problems	30.3	38.3	34.2	35.2	37.0	35.9
Total reporting at least one problem	88.2	80.8	84.3	47.2	37.9	42.7
Total reporting health problem(s) (000s)	1.6	1.6	3.2	20.7	15.2	36.0

¹ Columns may not add up to 100% because respondents could report more than one problem.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.4

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over who consulted health-care professional(s),¹ 1991

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit
		%	
Health-care professional:			
Medical doctor	94.7	92.2	71.4
Nurse	36.1	37.9	71.7
Community health representative	7.6	12.2	5.3
Alcohol worker	2.0	4.1	2.9
Traditional healer	3.0	7.0	0.7*
Dentist	46.4	49.0	45.1
Eye specialist/doctor	37.2	40.4	37.8
Druggist/pharmacist	52.4	46.0	18.6
Someone else	10.4	8.0	4.1
Total who consulted a health-care professional ²	76.4	73.2	67.8
Total who consulted a health-care professional (000s)	64.3	211.2	14.1

¹ Refers only to those who consulted someone about their health in the past year.

² Includes women who consulted a midwife.

* Figure to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.5

Percentage of Métis who consulted health-care professional(s),¹ 1991

	Health-care professional					
	Medical doctor	Nurse	Community health representative	Alcohol worker	Traditional healer	Dentist
	%					
Women aged:						
15-24	94.9	41.0	10.4	1.4*	1.4*	51.0
25-44	96.7	36.2	7.4	2.0	3.7	55.7
45-64	97.8	32.9	8.3	1.3*	4.3*	36.0
65 and over	96.6	47.1	17.2*	x	x	16.6*
Total 15 and over	96.3	37.6	8.9	1.7	3.1	49.1
Men aged:						
15-24	89.1	33.1	5.7	1.3*	1.7*	51.7
25-44	92.9	31.8	5.0	2.0*	3.0	43.2
45-64	96.4	36.8	6.0	5.2*	3.8*	33.4
65 and over	91.8	46.4	11.8*	x	x	32.6
Total 15 and over	92.6	34.1	5.8	2.4	2.8	42.8
Total aged:						
15-24	92.6	37.9	8.5	1.3*	1.5*	51.3
25-44	95.1	34.4	6.4	2.0	3.4	50.6
45-64	97.2	34.7	7.2	3.1	4.0	34.8
65 and over	94.2	46.8	14.4	x	3.2*	24.7
Total 15 and over	94.7	36.1	7.6	2.0	3.0	46.4

	Health-care professional				Total who consulted a health professional	
	Eye specialist/ doctor	Midwife	Druggist/ pharmacist	Someone else	000s	As a % of total population
	%					
Women aged:						
15-24	33.4	x	51.1	7.0	11.3	83.7
25-44	38.0	0.6*	61.2	10.9	17.5	82.7
45-64	48.4	x	61.8	12.9	6.6	89.1
65 and over	54.4	...	60.9	5.3*	1.6	87.1
Total 15 and over	39.2	0.4*	58.2	9.8	37.0	84.3
Men aged:						
15-24	37.7	...	37.2	9.6	7.5	64.3
25-44	28.0	...	43.6	13.5	12.2	64.4
45-64	42.0	...	52.7	10.6	5.9	78.4
65 and over	41.0	...	58.2	6.4*	1.6	81.4
Total 15 and over	34.4	...	44.7	11.4	27.3	67.9
Total aged:						
15-24	35.2	...	45.6	8.0	18.8	74.7
25-44	33.9	...	54.0	12.0	29.7	74.1
45-64	45.4	...	57.5	11.8	12.6	83.7
65 and over	47.6	...	59.5	5.9*	3.2	84.2
Total 15 and over	37.2	...	52.4	10.4	64.3	76.4

¹ Refers only to those who consulted someone about their health in the past year.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.6

Percentage of Métis children who consulted health-care professional(s),¹ 1991

	Health-care professional								Total who consulted a health professional	
	Medical doctor	Nurse	Community health representative	Traditional healer	Dentist	Eye specialist/ doctor	Druggist/ pharmacist	Someone else	000s	As a % of total population
	%									
Children aged:										
Female										
0-4	94.8	43.3	27.4	x	17.9	5.4	31.0	4.4	8.0	84.9
5-14	86.2	36.1	9.2	x	69.2	40.7	36.9	6.9	11.0	72.7
Total 0-14	89.8	39.1	16.9	0.6*	47.7	25.9	34.4	5.9	19.0	77.4
Male										
0-4	94.5	52.2	26.2	x	14.6	4.3	36.1	7.3	8.2	84.4
5-14	87.1	36.4	11.2	1.2*	65.0	32.4	31.2	4.9	11.8	70.2
Total 0-14	90.1	42.9	17.3	1.0*	44.3	20.9	33.2	5.9	20.1	75.4
Total										
0-4	94.6	47.8	26.8	0.7*	16.2	4.9	33.6	5.9	16.2	84.7
5-14	86.6	36.2	10.2	0.9*	67.0	36.4	33.9	5.9	22.8	71.4
Total 0-14	90.0	41.0	17.1	0.8*	46.0	23.4	33.8	5.9	39.0	76.4

¹ Refers only to those who consulted someone about their health in the past year.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.7

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples with disabilities, 1991

	Métis			North American Indian			Inuit		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
	%								
People aged:									
15-24	23.5	20.1	21.9	23.4	19.9	21.7	18.5	23.7	21.0
25-34	25.3	20.3	23.1	24.6	22.6	23.7	25.0	21.1	23.2
35-54	39.7	35.0	37.2	36.9	33.5	35.4	36.4	30.0	33.3
55 and over	68.6	67.7	68.1	68.6	63.8	66.4	65.8	59.9	62.5
Total 15 and over	33.3	30.3	31.9	33.0	29.5	31.4	29.2	28.7	29.0
Total population (000s) ¹	42.8	38.9	81.7	150.1	127.6	277.7	9.7	9.1	18.8

¹ Excludes those who did not state their disability status.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-535-XPB, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.8

Prevalence of cigarette smoking among Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over, 1991

	Métis	North American Indian	Inuit
		%	
Total current smokers	54.4	54.1	70.6
Daily	47.1	41.4	63.2
Occasional	7.3	12.7	7.4
Not currently smoking	42.8	42.4	28.2
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Includes those who did not state their smoking status.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.9

Prevalence of cigarette smoking among the Métis, 1991

	Smokers		Total current smokers	Not currently smoking	Total ¹
	Daily	Occasional			
			%		
Women aged:					
15-24	44.1	10.6	54.7	43.4	100.0
25-44	51.8	6.3	58.1	39.7	100.0
45-64	48.0	4.6	52.7	43.3	100.0
65 and over	35.3	x	36.9	62.1	100.0
Total 15 and over	48.1	7.2	55.2	42.4	100.0
Men aged:					
15-24	43.7	9.3	53.0	44.5	100.0
25-44	52.6	6.6	59.2	36.9	100.0
45-64	37.9	7.2	45.1	51.5	100.0
65 and over	29.6	7.3*	36.9	62.9	100.0
Total 15 and over	46.1	7.5	53.7	43.2	100.0
Total aged:					
15-24	43.9	10.0	53.9	43.9	100.0
25-44	52.2	6.4	58.6	38.4	100.0
45-64	42.9	5.9	48.9	47.4	100.0
65 and over	32.3	4.5*	36.9	62.5	100.0
Total 15 and over	47.1	7.3	54.4	42.8	100.0

¹ Includes those who did not state their smoking status.

* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Table 8.10

Percentage of Aboriginal peoples aged 15 and over who reported food shortages,¹ 1991

	Frequency of food shortages:			Total who reported shortages
	Less than once a month	At least once or twice every month	More than two days every month	
	%			
Métis				
Women	4.8	2.2	1.5	9.0
Men	2.7	1.3	1.6	5.9
Total	3.8	1.7	1.5	7.4
North American Indian				
Women	5.1	1.9	1.9	9.4
Men	3.7	1.5	1.2	6.8
Total	4.4	1.7	1.6	8.2
Inuit				
Women	7.1	3.8	2.0*	13.5
Men	7.1	2.0*	2.4*	11.8
Total	7.1	2.9	2.2	12.7

¹ Includes those who did not have enough food to eat at some point during the twelve months prior to the survey.

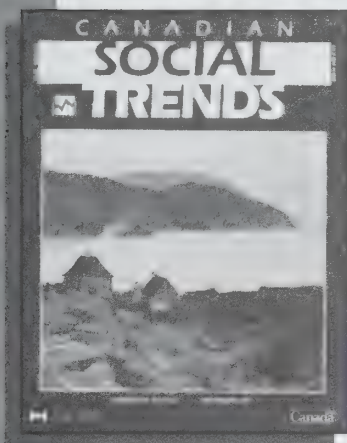
* Figures to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.7% and 33.3%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

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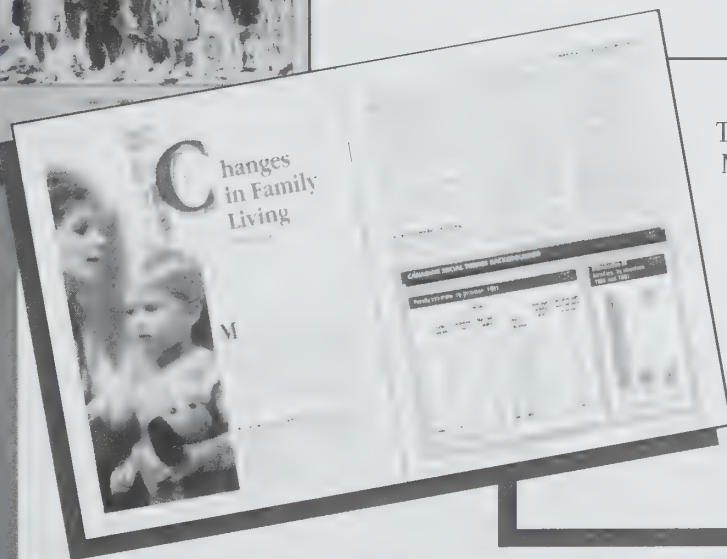
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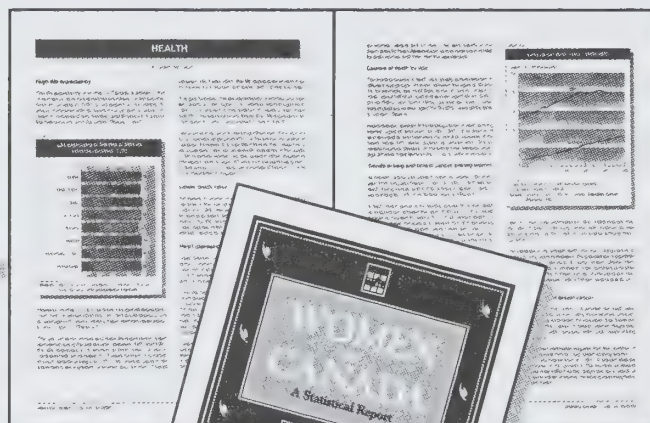
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